

**EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET MEETING
April 27, 2009**

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 27, 2009. Present were Chairman Jim Ithurralde, Vice Chairman Leonard Fiorenzi, Member Mike Page, District Attorney Theodore Beutel, and Clerk & Treasurer Jackie Berg. The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. The interactive video conferencing system was connected and utilized between Crescent Valley and Eureka.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Fiorenzi asked that the agenda item regarding employee benefits be considered prior to the new staff positions, and with that change motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Page seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chairman called for public comments. Mike Sullivan, EMS Coordinator, made a public announcement regarding the Swine Flu. Twenty cases have been reported to the Center for Disease Control in the United States, with no fatalities to date. Two drugs proven effective against this flu (Tamiflu and Relenza) have been stockpiled by the CDC. Mr. Sullivan cautioned the public to wash their hands often and to cough or sneeze into their elbow or shoulder, not their hands. More information is available on the CDC website.

FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2009 BUDGET TRANSFERS AND AUGMENTATION

Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Transfers: Mike Rebaleati, County Recorder and Auditor, reported that due to projects requiring immediate attention (Devil's Gate GID water connection and the Crescent Valley well replacement) the Fiscal Year 2009 budget will have to be augmented.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Capital Improvement Plan: Mr. Rebaleati explained that many of the planned projects for the upcoming fiscal year will be addressed early in the budget year. General Fund capital improvements include the two water tenders, and Nevada Division of Forestry requests. Road Fund capital outlay projects include the JD Ranch Bridge and equipment replacements. The Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) Fund was increased to \$1.2 million after the RTC request on April 20th.

The remainder of the Eureka Town Fire Station will be funded from the Building Maintenance Fund, as well as building repairs and remodels (Justice Facility). The Capital Improvement Fund will support radio repeater upgrades, equipment replacements, vehicle replacements, and flood abatement work. The Assessor's Technology Fund will continue to fund many technology improvements. The Eureka Town Fund will cover larger County projects in the Town of Eureka, including the booster tank, telemetry, and back-up generators; water and sewer projects; spring refurbishments and line extensions; and sewer pond expansion. The Crescent Valley Town Fund will cover arsenic treatment and replacement of the failed well. The main expenditure from the Television District will be the

digital conversion project. The Devil's Gate GID Fund will pay for water system improvements and arsenic treatment. The overall cash balance of the County will decrease while these projects are being constructed, but the fund balances will be allowed to rebuild once the projects are completed.

ESTIMATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES BY FUNCTION AND ACTIVITY

Employee Benefit Package: Mr. Rebaleati explained that the Health Insurance Committee recommended that the County maintain the 70/30 (County/employee) split for dependent health insurance coverage for current employees. The County's sponsored base plan will be the Saint Mary's HMO health insurance and the MetLife Dental Plan 2. If final costs stay true to the estimates, the County will experience a decrease in cost of the employee premium. Current employees will receive a subsidy for health insurance after retirement, but may be offered the choice of the subsidy or a retirement buyout.

Commissioner Fiorenzi recommended that new hires after July 1st would not receive the retiree insurance subsidy or buyout, and that the County possibly promote a more aggressive deferred compensation retirement plan for new employees. Another proposal was a reduction in the County/employee split for dependent health insurance premiums for new hires after July 1st. These proposals will be discussed in detail at the May 6th meeting.

Cost of living allowance for regular full-time employees will be 81 cents, based on four percent of the average full-time salary; Department Heads will receive five percent of the average of their salaries (not yet calculated). Job classifications and wages may be adjusted after the Wage & Salary Committee concludes their comparable study.

Nevada Health Centers: Liliam Shell, Regional Operations Director for Nevada Health Centers, reported that Eureka County has a single cardiac monitor which is housed at the Eureka Clinic and accompanies cardiac patients who are transported by ambulance, leaving the clinic with no monitor until the ambulance returns. Dr. Glenn Waite, Eureka Clinic physician, explained that the only individuals in Eureka County who are advance cardiac life support (ACLS) certified are himself, Physician Assistant Duke Gibson, and EMS Coordinator Mike Sullivan. The monitors are capable of providing pacing, cardioversion, and defibrillation.

Nevada Health Centers requested three new MRX cardiac monitors; two will be stationed in Eureka and one will be located in Crescent Valley. Commissioner Fiorenzi motioned to direct the Budget Officer to see if the monitors could be funded in this fiscal year and approved purchase of three cardiac monitors for \$61,081.00 (approx. \$20,360.00 each). Commissioner Page seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Ms. Shell updated the Board on the telemedicine progress for the Crescent Valley Clinic. Assemblyman John Carpenter sponsored a bill (AB 370) in support of telemedicine in rural areas; amendments to the bill will allow telemedicine without a pharmacy tech in these outlying areas. If the bill does not pass, the Crescent Valley site would require a pharmacy tech, and if that is not feasible, the County may need to look at increasing staffing to support regular clinic days.

Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department: Phil Schmitz, Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department Chief, and Virgil Roper, volunteer member, reported on the proposed budget for the Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Roper has a firefighting background with the Turlock, California Fire Department and Forest Service. Mr. Schmitz reviewed the Crescent Valley Fire Department budget requests: a quick response truck for EMS calls with the capability to pull the hazardous materials trailer; a 10% overall budget increase to account for inflation; an increase in training funds for in-house training and conferences;

in-house vehicle maintenance when warranted; a piesto gauge for hose and hydrant testing; a back-up generator for the fire station building; and extra fire hose. Chairman Ithurralde suggested the fire hoses be purchased with the funds available for services and supplies. The Fire Department's relationship with Nevada Division of Forestry was briefly touched on. A meeting with the Commissioners, NDF, and the local volunteer fire departments is scheduled for May 19th to discuss the fire district ordinance, NDF, and related issues. Mr. Rebaleati explained that the Eureka Volunteer Fire Department has a hose tester that can be borrowed by the Crescent Valley Fire Department.

Personnel Manager: A letter from Ted Beutel, District Attorney, regarding personnel issues was presented; the letter stated that the District Attorney and the Recorder/Auditor will no longer be able to perform the functions of Personnel Manager due to lack of time available. As of July 1, 2009, all personnel issues will be forwarded to the Commission Chairman with the exception of equal employment opportunity concerns.

The Board discussed the proposed Personnel Manager position. Mr. Rebaleati estimated a competitive salary would have to be at least \$50,000 to \$60,000. Commissioners Fiorenzi suggested starting the position between \$45,000 to \$50,000. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve the position of Personnel Manager, effective July 1, 2009. Commissioner Page seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-1, with Commissioner Fiorenzi opposed. Job descriptions will be presented at a future meeting.

Sheriff's Deputy: Sheriff Ken Jones explained the need for an additional Sheriff's Deputy. The Sheriff's Department is pursuing an anti-drug program in the County and interacting with the School District. An additional deputy will enhance 24-hour patrol coverage, provide for more narcotics investigations, fill the need of a school resource officer, and alleviate department shortages when staff is on vacation or sick leave. There are currently five positions serving southern Eureka County and two positions serving northern Eureka County, not including the Sheriff and Undersheriff. The Board discussed having the School District contribute to the cost of a deputy interacting at the school. Commissioner Fiorenzi made a motion to approve the proposed additional Sheriff's Deputy position. Commissioner Page seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Fiorenzi would prefer that the School District hire its own truancy officer or have a contract with the Sheriff's Department.

Animal Control Officer: The Animal Control Officer is proposed as a casual position, not to exceed 1040 hours per year. This position would alleviate jailers having to leave the detention facility to carry out animal control functions. Commissioner Fiorenzi motioned to approve the Animal Control Officer casual position. Commissioner Page seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Public Works Landfill Employee: An additional employee was proposed after the public expressed interest in expanding the Landfill hours. Ron Damele, Public Works Director, described the expanded hours and staffing. Commissioner Fiorenzi motioned to increase the hours of operation, and the additional position at the Landfill. Chairman Ithurralde seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-1, with Commissioner Page opposed.

Beowawe Road Department Employee: Mr. Damele reported that an additional employee with basic mechanical skills would be beneficial in the Beowawe Road Shop. Commissioner Page motioned to approve the Beowawe Road Department position. Commissioner Fiorenzi seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Casual Ambulance Employees: Mr. Sullivan explained to the Board that two casual employee positions were being requested for the ambulance service; one in Crescent Valley and one in Eureka. The casual positions would provide EMS coverage during daytime hours, fill in when Mr. Sullivan is out of the community, and provide administrative assistance.

Daytime coverage is problematic since most volunteers having daytime jobs and families. The increase in workers at the Cortez Mine, may lead to more EMS calls in the northern part of the County. Commissioner Fiorenzi made a motion to approve the casual EMS employee for Crescent Valley only. Commissioner Page seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Eureka Justice Court Casual Employee Hours: An additional 400 casual hours were requested by Eureka Justice Court, which would bring their total casual allocation to 800 hours for the year. Commissioner Fiorenzi motioned to approve the increase of casual employee hours for the Eureka Justice Court. Commissioner Page seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Tentative Budget: Mr. Rebaleati provided the Board with an itemized copy of the tentative 2009-2010 budget for review prior to the May 18th Board meeting. Adjustments will be made before the final budget is due. Mr. Rebaleati reported that he will be meeting with Mr. Damele during the next few weeks to discuss the capital improvement projects and corresponding funds to ensure that the budget is adequate for FY 2009-2010.

Rehab Services of Nevada: The original contract with Rehab Services of Nevada was for a six month period; however, the new contract is for a one year period but uses the original contract figures. Mr. Beutel explained that there should be a point where the patient load supports the cost of servicing the Eureka area, without the County subsidizing every trip. The contract will be addressed at the May 6th meeting.

Nevada Health Centers: A letter was received from Nevada Health Centers stating that a budget increase will not be necessary for FY 2009-2010. The Board agreed that Nevada Health Centers needs to justify the need for telemedicine capabilities, required staff, and cost. The Board had previously requested a study from Nevada Health Centers that would explain the additional personnel needed for telemedicine capabilities, but that study was not received. Commissioner Fiorenzi made a motion to send a letter to Nevada Health Centers requesting clarification on additional personnel needed for telemedicine capabilities, and that the Chairman be authorized to sign the letter outside of the Board meeting. Commissioner Page seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Eureka County Television District: Dave Pastorino, Television District Chairman, reported that one board member is unwell and another member has resigned. The vacant position is being advertised. The TV District Board will meet soon to address the proposed ordinance addressing the members' salaries. Mr. Pastorino reported on activities, including upgrades, digital television, channel availability, grants, equipment, and weather related problems. Most of the equipment required for the digital television conversion has been purchased. The Television District budget was reviewed. Commissioner Fiorenzi motioned to approve the TV District's tentative budget in the amount of \$399,500.00, and requested that preparations for the subsequent budget year (FY 2010-2011) include a plan for more comprehensive television coverage. Commissioner Page seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Water Mitigation/Monitoring Funds: Jake Tibbitts, Natural Resources Manager, explained that funds from Barrick designated for water mitigation were overspent. The State Water Engineer approved \$60,000.00 that could be spent each year for water mitigation purposes. The Barrick funds were overspent and should be repaid with a transfer within the County. The Board agreed that the Barrick water mitigation funds should be a separate line item under the Commissioners' budget described as 'water monitoring' for accounting purposes. Mr. Tibbitts will request permission from the State Water Engineer to use the remaining Barrick funds for continued water monitoring.

County Liability Insurance: Mr. Rebaleati reported that a phone conference was scheduled later that day with POOL/PACT to discuss the rates for the County's liability

insurance; the rates will be finalized later in the week, and quotes will include different deductible amounts as well.

SET DATE AND TIME OF NEXT BUDGET MEETING

Final budget items can be addressed during the May 18th combined regular meeting and tax hearing, so no further budget meetings were scheduled.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Board clarified that support given for a legislative bill in one house (presented by County legislative representatives or the County's lobbyist) can be carried through to the other house unless a drastic change has been made to a bill. Chairman Ithurralde reported that Assembly Bill 183 supporting the Silver State Tag is still viable, as is Senate Bill 61.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Ithurralde called for public comments. Cindy Garcia, a concerned parent, commented on the suggestion of a school resource officer. Ms. Garcia explained that a Eureka County Sheriff's deputy working as a resource officer at the school would be beneficial. Their regular presence will establish trust between the officer and the students, allowing for better communication when a problem does arise.

There were no further comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:15 p.m., Commissioner Fiorenzi made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Page seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Approved this 18th day of May, 2009.

/s/ J.P. Ithurralde
J.P. Ithurralde, Chairman

Attest: /s/ Jackie Berg
Jackie Berg, Clerk