

**EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**May 19, 2008**

STATE OF NEVADA     )  
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COUNTY OF EUREKA    )

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law on May 19, 2008. Present were Chairman Jim Ithurrealde; Vice Chairman Kenneth Benson; Member Donna Bailey; District Attorney Theodore Beutel; and Clerk & Treasurer Jackie Berg. Chairman Ithurrealde called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. Due to technical difficulties, the interactive video conference system was only utilized for a portion of the meeting; Crescent Valley participated for most of the meeting via teleconference.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman Ithurrealde noted one correction to the posted agenda; the tax rate for the Diamond Valley Rodent District should read 0.400. With that correction, Commissioner Bailey motioned to approve the agenda as posted. Commissioner Benson seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Benson moved to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2008, meeting; Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Benson moved to approve the minutes for the NDF Workshop on May 5, 2008; Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Ithurrealde explained that the meeting was scheduled (and advertised) for May 19<sup>th</sup> to accommodate a statute requiring County tax rates to be set on the third Monday in May. He then opened the floor to public comment; there were no comments.

**FINANCE**

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for payment by Recorder/Auditor Mike Rebaleati. Commissioner Bailey motioned to approve the Yucca Mountain expenditures in the amount of \$14,529.50; Commissioner Benson seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Benson motioned to approve the County expenditures in the amount of \$1,001,396.32 for accounts payable, and \$212,380.10 for payroll, for a total of \$1,213,776.42; Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Auditor's Report: The Auditor's Report was presented, and Mr. Rebaleati stated he would provide alternate versions in the future so the Board could opt for a more detailed report if they preferred.

Purchase Fire Department Radios: Commissioner Benson motioned to approve purchasing four radios for the County Fire Departments, not to exceed \$1,800.00; Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

**EUREKA COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD**

Silver State Tag Proposal: Wildlife Board Chairman, Chad Bliss, provided an update on recent activities and plans for the coming year. Mr. Bliss detailed the "Silver State Tag" project that the Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board conceived and has been working on for the past couple years. Each year the Nevada Department of Wildlife auctions off special hunting tags

that generate tens of thousands apiece to benefit the Heritage Act Fund. The price alone makes these tags unavailable to the average sportsman, so the local Wildlife Board would like to institute an annual drawing for a Silver State Tag. They propose that state hunting applications contain an option to be included in this drawing by paying a small fee. If one in five hunters participates, this could generate \$600,000.00 annually. The Wildlife Board would like to designate proceeds to the Heritage Act Fund to ensure these monies are used to benefit the rural counties, but this will require legislation. The Legislative Council Bureau is currently working on draft language, and Assemblyman Pete Goicoechea will sponsor a bill during the 2009 Nevada State Legislature.

The Board commended the Wildlife Board on their work and offered support for this project.

### **NEVADA HEALTH CENTERS, INC.**

Contract for Fiscal Year 2008-2009: Dr. Carl Heard, CEO of Nevada Health Centers, Inc., attended to continue discussions regarding contract services at the Eureka and Crescent Valley Clinics for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. Dr. Heard provided a written report that included year-to-date expenses, net income and loss (showing a minor loss at both clinics), cost per visit for each facility, on-call activity, sample community flyers, and provider hours. He explained this report will be used as an internal tool to help improve the 'no show' rates, which have been a result of lack of physician availability. Dr. Heard stated his intent to begin providing a monthly summary to the Commissioners, in the form of a written report or possibly a newsletter.

The Board and Dr. Heard discussed services, specifically provider hours that were expected to be fulfilled as part of the contract. Dr. Heard is committed to improving the hours provided, and reiterated the problem of lack of physicians, including the resignation of a locums physician who would have been utilized for the Crescent Valley Clinic. Dr. Heard agreed to work with the District Attorney to include language in the contract regarding availability of services at the Crescent Valley site.

Dr. Heard provided two contracts with correlating spreadsheets. The first contract provided for continuation of services as they exist now for a total annual cost of \$522,743.00 (\$462,243.00/Eureka Clinic and \$60,500.00/Crescent Valley Clinic). The second contract included a telemedicine option for the Crescent Valley for a total annual cost of \$710,903.00 (\$462,243.00/Eureka Clinic and \$248,660.00/Crescent Valley Clinic).

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of a telemedicine option, including whether the increase in services was proportionate to the increase in costs. The Board agreed to approve an annual contract with Nevada Health Centers, to possibly include the telemedicine option, pending a feasibility study. Commissioner Bailey made a motion to this effect; Chairman Ithurralde seconded the motion; motion carried 2-0, with Commissioner Benson abstaining from the vote.

Linoleum for Eureka County Clinic: A letter was received from Linda Gordon, on behalf of the Eureka Medical Clinic, with a request to replace carpeting with linoleum in four exam rooms. Public Works Director, Ron Damele, stated the floors in the entire clinic were being evaluated, and he planned on presenting a cost estimate at the next meeting. The Chairman agreed to table this item to the June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received from: District Attorney, Ted Beutel, letter to Dr. Carl Heard; Nevada Health Centers, Inc.; Public Works Director, Ron Damele; D. Lloyd Morrison; Bethany Cutler; Eureka County Fair Board; District Attorney Senior Dept. Assistant, Toni Wright (2); NRAC Chairman, Jim Baumann; General Moly, Inc.; Edie Boudreau; Clerk, Jackie Berg, letter to Washoe Crime Lab; Judge Steve Dobrescu; Reyman Bros. Construction; Renown Community Health Fair flyer; Eureka

County Planning Commission; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board (3); Eureka County 4H News; Nevada Association of Counties (4); Fact Sheet–History of White Pine County’s water issues; Nye County Nuclear Waste Repository Project letter to Edward Sproat, Dept. of Energy; Tri-County meeting agenda; Nevada Division of Water Resources; Weekly Mormon Cricket Reports; Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (3); Nevada Dept. of Transportation; NDOT Centerline; Nevada Restaurant Assoc.; TNT Auction notice; Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (3); Southern Nevada Water Authority; Nevada Dept. of Taxation; Subcommittee on Local Government Finance; US Dept. of the Interior-BLM (3); Land Rights Network; and various publications.

## **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

### **COUNTY FACILITIES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Facilities Director, Wally Cuchine, reported on activities over the last couple of weeks. The Fly-In brought in about a dozen airplanes. Favorable comments were received on the newly painted hangar door which identified Booth Bailey Field, as dedicated at the 2007 Fly-In. The Car Show was a huge success and brought a lot of tourists into the Town of Eureka. The Highway 50 Garage Sale was also a huge success.

The Opera House will host a concert on May 23<sup>rd</sup> featuring the Brad Richter Trio. On June 13<sup>th</sup>, Sourdough Slim will perform. Mr. Cuchine has been working with a tour group called Leisure Travel out of Sacramento, and on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 44 people will travel to Eureka via bus to spend two nights and three days seeing the sights and enjoying the Eureka community. The Sentinel Museum continues to be busy with the onset of the tourist season, and some interesting work is being done on local family histories.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

Handicap Ramp in District Courtroom: Public Works Director, Ron Damele, stated that the handicap ramp in the District Courtroom has been identified as a hazard by the Safety Committee and he has asked Architect, Fred Dolven, to provide a recommendation. Commissioner Benson motioned that Mr. Damele work with Mr. Dolven toward remediation of any hazard associated with the ramp in the District Courtroom. Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Appoint Commissioner to Interview Panel: Eight interviews have been scheduled with applicants for the Road Superintendent/Assistant Public Works Director position and Mr. Damele requested that a Commissioner participate in those interviews. Commissioner Benson motioned that Chairman Ithurralde participate in the interviews; Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion; motion carried 2-0, with Chairman Ithurralde abstaining from the vote.

Bid Award: Bids, which were received at the May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, were reviewed by Mr. Damele and Battalion Chief, Joe Anelli. Both recommended awarding the bid for a light rescue truck to Boise Mobile Equipment, with a 120 calendar day delivery date following receipt of the chassis. Commissioner Benson motioned to award the bid to Boise Mobile Equipment for one complete light rescue truck with a compressed air foam system unit, not to exceed \$147,675.00. Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Cooperative Agreement with Nevada Division of Emergency Management: Eureka County has not yet applied for Homeland Security grants, but if they decide to in the future, this paperwork must be in place. Commissioner Benson motioned to approve signing a Cooperative Agreement with Nevada Division of Emergency Management. Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

### **COUNTY ENGINEER**

Eureka Fire Station Project: Tom Young, of Lumos & Associates, reported that the Fire Station Project is still out to bid. An asbestos study was done on the existing building with

negative results. The State Fire Marshall was contacted and his comments on the project are still at least two weeks out, possibly three. Due to this Mr. Young requested authorization to extend the bid deadline to June 20<sup>th</sup>. The Board agreed with this request.

Devil's Gate GID and Diamond Valley Fire Station Well Projects: The generator arrived approximately three weeks earlier and has been connected. A final walk-through was presently being conducted by Mike Bennett of Lumos & Associates; Jack Orr, Senior Utility Worker; and the well contractor.

Million Gallon Tank and Booster Station Project: Work has been going according to schedule. Topography was completed for this project, as well as technical work in the field. The lab is processing the data and should have a report in three weeks. Rights-of-way need to be amended for both the booster station and tank sites, but legal descriptions should be prepared within the week. Conceptual grading and site plans for the tank are complete.

General Updates: Mr. Damele advised that Humboldt Drilling is currently on site to pull Well #2, and Hydrotech Resources is also in Eureka to locate, video, and clean the sewer line from the northern property line at the depot to the NDOT state yard.

Pine Valley Cemetery: Commissioner Bailey asked for an update on work planned for the Pine Valley Cemetery. Mr. Damele stated he would like to have a meeting with all interested parties, and then apply for an Encroachment Permit with the Nevada Department of Transportation in order to move the approach to the cemetery. Once that is received, work on the fence can begin.

## **EUREKA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION**

Guest Speaker Regarding Agricultural Districts: The Planning Commission originally requested time on the agenda to ask Eureka County to share in costs associated with having a speaker come to Eureka County to give a presentation on agricultural districts and agricultural land protection alternatives. In the meantime, they have contacted the speaker who has agreed to come for free. The presentation is tentatively scheduled for June 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Planning Commission will post notices for the benefit of the public.

## **NEPA COMMITTEE**

Appointment to NEPA Committee: A letter of interest was received, and Commissioner Benson motioned to appoint D. Lloyd Morrison to the vacant seat on the NEPA Committee for the Mount Hope Project. Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## **EUREKA COUNTY FAIR BOARD**

Appointment to Fair Board: Per recommendation from the Fair Board and letter of interest, Commissioner Bailey motioned to appoint Bethany Cutler to the Eureka County Fair Board; Commissioner Benson seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **BEOVAWE JUSTICE COURT**

Wage Variance Request: Judge Susan Fye explained that Beowawe Justice Court recently hired a part-time employee who is highly qualified, and she requested a wage variance for that employee. Commissioner Bailey motioned to approve a wage variance to range 111 step 5 for the new Beowawe Justice Court part-time employee. Commissioner Benson seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## **EUREKA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Monthly Financial Report: Following a brief discussion by the Board, Commissioner Benson motioned to accept the School District Financial Report for April 2008, adding that the County Auditor, Mike Rebaleati, be directed to request that Kafoury Armstrong include the

School District as one of the County's special audits to be conducted at the conclusion of this fiscal year. Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT**

Cost-Share for New AS/400 System: At the last meeting the Board agreed to share in the cost of a new AS/400 system with White Pine and Lincoln Counties (the three counties comprise the Seventh Judicial District). Commissioner Benson motioned to ratify that decision with the updated figure of \$6,253.23 for Eureka's portion of the cost; Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

Activity Report: Senior Department Assistant, Judy Overton, reported that she attended the Eureka Townsite Annexation Advisory Committee meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup>, where the committee discussed the prospective development agreement between Eureka County and General Moly, Inc. with GMI's representative, Manfred Daut. Ms. Overton attended the Natural Resources Advisory Commission meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup>, where the main topic of discussion was the Natural Resources Manager position.

Ms. Overton provided the Board with information concerning General Moly's announcement of a four million pound per year agreement with SeAH BESTEEL, Korea's largest manufacturer of specialty steels.

Mormon Cricket Surveys: Ms. Overton distributed the latest Mormon Cricket Weekly Report from the Nevada Department of Agriculture, noting that Black Point and Newark Pass were recently surveyed, and although a few crickets were spotted, there were no significant findings in Eureka County at this time.

Letter to Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP): In order to receive the final SB62 grant payment of \$60,000.00, Eureka County must show completion of Phase 2 of the Diamond Valley Flow System Study. Ms. Overton has arranged for Mary Tumbusch, of US Geological Survey, to provide an update on the project to the Board for Financing Water Projects, a subdivision of NDEP, and a letter was drafted requesting an extension of the project deadline to September 30, 2009.

Commissioner Benson motioned to approve the letter to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection requesting a one-year extension to complete Phase 2 of the Diamond Valley Flow System Study; Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Upcoming Meetings: The NEPA Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. May 19<sup>th</sup>; and General Moly is hosting an Open House at 7:00 p.m. on May 20<sup>th</sup> at the Eureka Opera House.

**RECESS FOR LUNCH**

The Board recessed for lunch from 12:02 p.m. to 1:06 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING TO SET FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009 TAX RATES**

Notice was given that the Eureka County Board of Commissioners would hold a public hearing to adopt the tax rates for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008. No increases to the tax rates were proposed. The purpose of this hearing was to accept comments and to take action to adopt the following Eureka County tax rates for Fiscal Year 2008-2009:

EUREKA COUNTY	\$0.8458	EUREKA TOWN	\$0.2153
TELEVISION DISTRICT	\$0.0085	CRESCENT VLY TOWN	\$0.2153
DIAMOND VLY WEED DIST.	\$0.0781	DIAMOND VLY RODENT DIST.	\$0.0400
EUREKA SCHOOL DIST.	\$0.7500	EUREKA SCHOOL BOND	\$0.1625
STATE OF NEVADA	\$0.1700		

Chairman Ithurralde opened the floor to public comments and there were none. Commissioner Benson motioned to approve the tax rates as advertised in the notice of public hearing; Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Tax Rate for Agriculture Extension Fund: Pursuant to NRS 354.596(5), a tax rate in excess of one cent for Agriculture Extension must be unanimously approved each year by the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Benson motioned that the Agriculture Extension tax rate remain at \$0.02 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009; Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **YUCCA MOUNTAIN**

Update on Yucca Mountain Project: Abby Johnson, Nuclear Waste Advisor, reported that it had been a busy month, which included the annual trip to Washington, DC. On April 16<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Johnson represented Eureka County at a Nuclear Regulatory Commission workshop dealing with the licensing process and procedures. On May 14<sup>th</sup>, she attended the Nevada Legislative Committee's High Level Waste Committee meeting via video conference.

She will also attend the following: a Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board meeting in Las Vegas on May 29<sup>th</sup>; a Department of Energy AULG (Affected Units of Local Government) workshop on June 4<sup>th</sup>, followed by an AULG meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup>, also in Las Vegas.

Washington, DC, Nuclear Waste Meetings: Ms. Johnson participated in the annual trip to Washington, DC, along with Chairman Ithurralde and Ron Damele. Ms. Johnson highlighted trip activities, which included meetings with the Department of Energy, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, American Association of Railroads, Nuclear Energy Institute, representatives from Senator Harry Reid's office, and representatives from Senator John Ensign's staff. Pertinent topics included the licensing process, web streaming, transportation issues, reprocessing, interim storage, alternative fuels, funding and budget issues, etc. Ms. Johnson concluded by noting there was definitely a feeling of 'Yucca fatigue'.

## **BID OPENING – FURNITURE FOR CRESCENT VALLEY NEW CONSTRUCTION**

Two bids were received; one was from MacAbee Office Environments with a total bid of \$33,161.53; the other was from Kahl Commercial Interiors with a total bid of \$43,729.88. Public Works will check the bids for conformity and present a recommendation for award at the next meeting. Commissioner Benson motioned to accept the bids into the record; Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **NATIONAL HISTORY DAY**

Commissioner Bailey excused herself from the room, stating a conflict of interest because she was related to both students. National History Day contestants, Melissa Damele and Will Marshall, presented their compositions, which won on the local and state levels, and explained they will now advance to the national competition in Washington, DC, scheduled for June 14-19, 2008. The students reviewed their fundraising activities and thanked Gladys Goicoechea, Donna Moyer, Barrick Gold Corporation, and the Eureka County School District for their generous donations. Commissioner Benson motioned to contribute \$500.00 (\$250.00 per student) for the trip to Washington, DC, to participate in National History Day competition; Chairman Ithurralde seconded the motion; motion carried 2-0.

## **FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA – DIAMOND MOUNTAIN CHAPTER**

FFA members, Michelle Rebaleati-Chapter President, and John Hoehne-Chapter Sentinel, stated they planned to attend the FFA Leadership Conference in Washington, DC, July 8<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, and requested funding assistance towards the registration fee of \$600.00 and air fare of \$450.00. Commissioner Benson motioned to donate the registration fee of \$600.00 per student,

for the two FFA members to attend the Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

### **EUREKA COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

Furniture for Cooperative Extension Office: Department Assistant, Mime Link, provided two quotes, from National Furniture and Quill, for furniture and bookcases needed in the Cooperative Extension office. Commissioner Benson motioned to approve purchasing the requested furniture from Quill, not to exceed \$2,000.00; Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

### **EUREKA COUNTY CLERK/TREASURER**

Clerk/Treasurer, Jackie Berg, provided bank statements through the month of April and reported on status of the monthly Treasurer Reports. She recently worked with Auditor, Jerri Norton from Kafoury Armstrong, to remedy a problem with the November and December monthly balances. A staff member has been assigned to work full-time on the reports until they are brought up to date.

The Investment Committee met recently, and based on decisions at that meeting, substantial investments will be made through the two state investment programs, NVEST and LGIP.

### **PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO AMEND COUNTY CODE**

Notice was given that the Board of Eureka County Commissioners would hold a public hearing to invite public comments and take action on a proposed ordinance amending the 2006 Eureka County Code, Title 6, Health and Welfare, by amending the existing title by adding a new chapter, Chapter 150, providing for the submission of fingerprints for background checks in Eureka County. District Attorney, Ted Beutel, explained that the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) is in essence forcing this ordinance, by a change in their regulations that will no longer allow counties to use their database for background checks unless this ordinance is in place.

Public comments were invited, but there were none. Commissioner Bailey motioned to enact this ordinance allowing for submission of fingerprints for background checks; Commissioner Benson seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

### **PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING SICK LEAVE POLICY**

Notice was given that the Board of Eureka County Commissioners would hold a public hearing to invite public comments and take action to amend the Eureka County Personnel Policy Manual by amending Section 6.3.1., Sick Leave Policy, to create a sick leave bank and to allow for an increase in the sick leave benefit at separation.

The Board members reviewed discussions to date, noting participation in the program would be optional and would include a requirement that employees maintain a set minimum of sick hours for their own use. Privacy and legal issues would be addressed, most likely by asking applicants/recipients to sign a HIPPA waiver. Employees would have to be a contributor in order to be eligible for the program, and all other paid leave must be exhausted.

Public comments were invited, and several employees had their concerns and questions answered by the Board, Mr. Beutel, and Mr. Rebaleati. Commissioner Benson motioned to approve the resolution to amend the Sick Leave Policy to include a sick leave bank as outlined, allowing employees to donate up to 20 hours per year providing they maintain a minimum of 120 hours for personal use. Chairman Ithurralde seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

### **NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Recommendation Regarding Natural Resources Manager: Jim Baumann, NRAC Chairman, introduced Jake Tibbitts, the first-ranked candidate for the position of Natural

Resources Manager. Mr. Baumann explained there were nine applicants; of those nine, four candidates were interviewed by the Selection Committee, and Jake Tibbitts was identified as the top-ranked candidate.

Mr. Tibbitts recently received his Master's degree in Geographic Information Science, and is familiar with satellite imagery and GIS to manage rangeland resources. He possesses an undergraduate Bachelor of Science in Biology with an emphasis on the botanical side of range management. Mr. Tibbitts stated his hard work ethic and 'go-getter' attitude would also contribute to his ability to undertake this job.

Contract Negotiations for Natural Resources Manager Position: The Board discussed a contract amount with Mr. Tibbitts, addressing job hours, overtime, job costs, training and support, and benefits. Negotiations eventually led to an offer of \$90,000.00 per year with an annual contract increase of 3.5%. County related travel expenses will be reimbursed at the County rate. A starting date was discussed, and due to Mr. Tibbitts' prior commitments, the parties agreed that the contract would begin July 1<sup>st</sup>, with Mr. Tibbitts working two days a week for Eureka County at a rate of \$3,750.00 for the first month, being liable for his own commuting costs. Full-time service and contract compensation would begin the 1<sup>st</sup> of August.

Chairman Ithurralde motioned to approve a contract with Jake Tibbitts for \$90,000.00 annually, effective August 1<sup>st</sup> to include a 3.5% annual contract increase; with initial work to begin July 1<sup>st</sup> as outlined, with \$3,750.00 in compensation for that first month. Commissioner Benson seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Direct County Staff to Draft Contract: Commissioner Benson motioned to direct the District Attorney to draft a contract outlining the terms as negotiated; Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009 FINAL BUDGET**

Budget Officer, Mike Rebaleati, reviewed figures pertinent to the final budget. The overall County tax rate of \$0.8458 will generate estimated revenue of \$7,823,990.00 on the total real property assessed valuation of \$929,568,000.00. The TV District, at a tax rate of \$0.0085, will generate an estimated \$78,617.00; Crescent Valley Town, at a tax rate of \$0.2153, will generate an estimated \$6,364.00; Eureka Town, at a tax rate of \$0.2153, will generate an estimated \$19,424.00; the Weed District, at a tax rate of \$0.0781, will generate an estimated \$9,900.00; and the Rodent District, at a tax rate of \$0.0400, will generate an estimated \$5,000.00.

Mr. Rebaleati reviewed personnel costs, which were virtually the same as presented in the tentative budget and included a 3.5% cost of living increase for regular employees and a 5% cost of living increase for at-will employees. The employee/employer cost-share for dependent insurance remains at the previous 70/30 split. The Recorder's office will be hiring summer help, but that will be funded from the Assessor's Technology Fund.

A major increase in services and supplies was attributed to rising fuel costs. The Commissioners' budget was increased to accommodate the transfer of contract services. Another addition to the budget was a utility truck for \$35,000.00 that was overlooked in the tentative budget. The remaining budget items were reviewed briefly, but were virtually the same as presented in the tentative budget.

Commissioner Bailey motioned to approve additions to the Final Budget as outlined by the Budget Officer; Commissioner Benson seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Equipment to Track County Computer Usage: Mr. Rebaleati noted that he will be installing equipment in the July/August timeframe that will give him the capability to track individual computer usage, including the ability to identify individual access to broadband and the Internet. He also plans on bringing the County computer usage policy forward so the terms can be restated, and plans on recommending that employees be discharged or suspended for unauthorized use.

County Phone System: Mr. Rebaleati explained that the phone system for the County is out of date and he has been working for several months researching a replacement system. Mr. Rebaleati provided a detailed report of installation plans for the new phone system, including back-up systems for the Sheriff's Department and Emergency Services. The system will require a capital outlay of approximately \$128,000.00. Mr. Rebaleati stated he planned on placing this on the June 6<sup>th</sup> agenda for authorization to proceed, and explained that this system would be exempt from the bid requirements because it qualifies as an upgrade and it is specialized computer equipment. Additionally, it can be purchased under an existing agreement through state purchasing.

Approval of Final Budget: Commissioner Benson motioned to adopt and sign the Final Budget as presented, to be submitted to the Nevada Department of Taxation; Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **COMMISSIONERS**

Update Reports: Chairman Ithurralde reported that he attended the Annexation Committee meeting; he met with Battalion Chief, Joe Anelli, regarding Eureka County issues; he met with the Natural Resources Advisory Commission regarding two proposed resolutions and the Natural Resources Manager position; and lastly the Chairman attended his son's graduation from the University of Nevada where he received his Master's degree.

Join with General Moly in Application to NDOT: General Moly requested that Eureka County join in making application to the Nevada Department of Transportation to obtain two public street intersection approaches to US Highway 50 from the annexed property near the Fairgrounds to accommodate the proposed Eureka Canyon Subdivision. Two accesses in close proximity will require that the speed limit be reduced to 35-45 mph. Commissioner Benson motioned to approve the request that Eureka County join General Moly in making application to the Nevada Department of Transportation for two approaches on Highway 50, including a preference for a speed limit of 45 mph. Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Free Dump Day: A request was received from a Diamond Valley resident for a free dump day during May Clean-Up, so that residents could haul trash to the dump one day each week during May at no charge. Commissioner Benson motioned that Mr. Beutel and Mr. Damele work together to develop an ordinance to be presented around March of 2009 to designate a free dump during future May Clean-Ups. Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Scholarship Monies for Crescent Valley Students: Chuck Henry, Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board member, updated the Commissioners on fundraising activities for scholarship monies for the Crescent Valley students. To date, \$735.00 has been raised and plans are to distribute the funds equally to the two eligible students. Barrick Gold Corporation has committed to a donation if a non-profit tax ID number is obtained. Fund raising will take place during the Fun Days event in June and will continue on through the month of August.

Chairman Ithurralde commented that he had left a message for the Superintendent of Lander County School District regarding the Crescent Valley students' eligibility for scholarships, but his call had not yet been returned. Commissioner Bailey motioned to donate \$500.00 total towards the scholarship fund for the Crescent Valley students; Commissioner Benson seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Burns Funeral Home: District Attorney, Ted Beutel, explained that a resident of Eureka passed away with no relatives nearby. The County made every effort to determine what the deceased would have wanted and her remains were taken to Burns Funeral Home for cremation. The Sheriff eventually made contact with a relative who was notified of the bill. The relative contacted Burns Funeral Home and paid to obtain copies of the death certificate, but

has not paid the cremation bill of \$800.00. There is an ordinance in place that would allow the County to pay this and then make a claim against the estate.

The Chairman decided to table action on this item until further information could be obtained.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Chairman opened the floor to public comment. Lisa Wolf, of Crescent Valley, requested more information on the new Natural Resources Manager, and the Chairman referred her to the Natural Resources Department. There were no further public comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 4:15 p.m., Commissioner Bailey motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Benson seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Approved this 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2008.

/s/ J.P. Ithurrealde  
J.P. Ithurrealde, Chairman

Attest: /s/ Jackie Berg  
Jackie Berg, Clerk