

# EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 20, 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 May 20, 2010. Present were Chairman Leonard Fiorenzi, Vice Chair Jim Ithurralde, Member Mike Page, District Attorney Theodore 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**

Chairman Fiorenzi opened the floor for public comment. Kim Todd and Garney Damele voiced concern that the Eureka Medical Clinic had mailed notices to the public that they would no longer conduct free sports physicals for the local schools. The County pays a substantial amount for the annual contract on behalf of its citizens and Ms. Todd and Ms. Damele would like the Commissioners to look into the reason for discontinuing this service.

Chairman Fiorenzi requested that the layout of the agenda be reconfigured so that new business and Commissioner items are addressed earlier in the day, with routine department reports and correspondence in the afternoon. This can be tried on a trial basis.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2010, quarterly meeting held in Crescent Valley; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **FINANCE**

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Recorder/Auditor, Mike Rebaleati. Chairman Fiorenzi asked if the County should expect reimbursement for Nevada Division of Forestry employees funded by the County, due to the mandatory furloughs. Mr. Rebaleati stated that Elko County is currently addressing that same issue, which will answer that question for all affected counties. Mr. Rebaleati will write a letter to the State regarding this issue.

Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve County expenditures in the amount of \$669,616.43; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Page motioned to approve Yucca Mountain expenditures in the amount of \$1,332.50; Commissioner Ithurralde seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Auditor's Report: Mr. Rebaleati presented the Auditor's Report for review and commented that a large net proceeds payment is expected by the end of the month.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received from: Clay Sharp; District Attorney, Ted Beutel; Clerk & Treasurer, Jackie Berg (4); Public Works Director, Ron Damele (2); Justice Court Manager, Cindy Garcia; Eureka County Planning Commission; Eureka County Economic Development Program;

Eureka County Fair Board; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board (2); Lumos & Assoc.; Allison, MacKenzie, et al; Eureka County High School; Eureka Moly, LLC (3); Elko County Board of Commissioners; Nevada Assoc. of Counties; Carrier Commercial Service; John Griffin of Kaempfer Crowell et al; Nevada Health Centers, Liliam Shell; Nevada Dept. of Transportation; Nevada Aging & Disability Services Division; Nevada Dept. of Information Technology; Nevada Dept. of Public Safety; Nevada Connections newsletter; Western Counties Alliance; National Assoc. of Counties (3); and US Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board.

## **COUNTY FACILITIES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Update Report: Wally Cuchine, Cultural, Tourism, & Economic Development Director, reported on the Highway 50 garage sale and annual car show the previous weekend. The car show was very successful with 85 cars. The Sentinel Museum is now open seven days a week to accommodate tourist season. On May 21<sup>st</sup> the White Pine Players will perform John Jory's, "*Love, Death, and the Prom*" at the Eureka Opera House. A new art exhibit is being displayed in the Gallery Hall of the Courthouse.

## **SENIOR CENTERS**

Grant Applications: Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve signing grant applications to the Nevada Aging & Disabilities Service Division for a congregate meals grant in the amount of \$20,066.00 with a match of \$3,541.00, and a home-delivered meals grant in the amount of \$17,043.00 with a match of \$3,008.00. Commissioner Page seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## **SWIMMING POOL**

Update Report: Assistant Swimming Pool Supervisor, Eneritz Eskandon, reported on pool activities over the past month, which include lap swimming, aquacise classes, and birthday parties. There were 243 total swimmers. Summer swim lessons will begin in June and flyers have been posted at the Elementary School and around town. They are short on staff and plan to hire a pool attendant in the near future.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

Cooling System for Server Room: Public Works Director, Ron Damele, reported he has been working with Mike Rebaleati to find an adequate cooling system for the server room in the County Courthouse. A quote was obtained from Carrier Commercial Service for an in-line fan system. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve the quote from Carrier Commercial Service, in the amount of \$9,897.00, to install a cooling system in the server room at the Courthouse; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Selection of Top-Ranked Engineering Firm: Mr. Damele reported that the Selection Committee reviewed the responses to the RFQ (request for qualifications) for the County Engineer contract and ranked the firms as follows: Lumos & Associates #1; Day Engineering #2; and Summit Engineering #3. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to accept the committee's rankings and to proceed with negotiations with the top-ranked engineering firm, which will take place at the June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Right-of-Way for Devil's Gate Water Line: A letter was received from Susan Martinovich, Nevada Department of Transportation, stating that after review of additional information provided by the County, they are now amenable to authorizing placement of the Devil's Gate GID water line within the US Highway 50 right-of-way. She asked that the right-of-way permit application be resubmitted with appropriate environmental documentation. The EA (environmental assessment) will be finalized and submitted to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) later in the week.

Administrative/Engineering Services for ARRA Street Maintenance Project: Lumos & Associates submitted a proposal for inspection, testing, and grant administration services related to the ARRA Street Maintenance Project on 11<sup>th</sup> Street in Diamond Valley. These administrative and engineering fees will be paid for by the grant. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to accept the proposal from Lumos & Associates for inspection, testing, and administration associated with the 11<sup>th</sup> Street ARRA Project, not to exceed \$38,000.00 and that these fees be paid out of the grant monies; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Letter to Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT): Each year NDOT presents their Annual Work Plan before the Board. The Board directed Mr. Damele to draft a letter to be sent to NDOT prior to their annual presentation, notifying them of additional issues the County would like to discuss. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to send this letter to NDOT and to authorize the Chairman to sign the letter outside of the meeting; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Right-of-Way for Crescent Valley Arsenic Treatment Plant: The existing BLM right-of-way for the Crescent Valley water system needs to be expanded to accommodate installation of the arsenic treatment plant. This will require an environmental assessment on the site. A proposal was obtained from JBR Environmental Consultants to complete the EA for \$16,000.00 (\$10,000 for the study, documentation, and mailing; \$2,000 for the biological field study; and \$4,000 for the cultural field study). Commissioner Page motioned to approve the proposal from JBR Environmental Consultants to complete the environmental assessment for a total of \$16,000.00, in order to expand the existing BLM right-of-way; Commissioner Ithurralde seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **COUNTY ENGINEER**

Main Street Water and Sewer Replacement Project: Tom Young, Lumos & Associates, reported on the Main Street Water and Sewer Replacement Project. Everything is still on schedule, although they have had to negotiate with NDOT on certain materials and the amount of concrete slurry backfill required around the underground pipes. There have been some very minor changes related to location of fire hydrants and utilities. A change order was approved by Public Works in the amount of \$10,675.00 to install colored concrete around the pipes for future identification purposes. Underground pipe has been encountered at Mineral Street that is only two feet deep; so a change order will be presented for approval at the next meeting to cover the cost of deepening the trench.

ARRA Street Maintenance Project: Mr. Young reported that this should be a very successful project, although because of the federal grant money involved, there is a substantial amount of paperwork. Nevada Department of Transportation will require \$5,000.00 of the grant monies for their involvement in administering the project. Onset of the project is expected the following week, as soon as the environmental clearance is received from NDOT.

2010 Street Maintenance Project: Mr. Young presented the scope of work and construction cost estimate for the 2010 Street Maintenance Project. This year's project will include slurry seal on the streets in Crescent Valley (except McDaniel because of some other work needed there); adjustments to valve boxes and manholes; re-striping, including at the pool, the cattle guard on County Road 101, handicapped spaces around the County buildings, crosswalks, and the Eureka High School; patching; and rebuild a section of County Road 101 as the budget allows. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve the 2010 Street Maintenance Project construction scope of work and cost estimate in the amount of \$1,379,655.00 and an alternate of \$382,490.00, dependent upon bids received; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Report on Activities: Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts, reported that he received his weed technician certification earlier in the week, as a result of the class he recently attended with Weed Technician, Al Hoekenga, in Elko. Mr. Hoekenga has sprayed most of the road rights-of-way in Diamond Valley and Crescent Valley. The Weed District will coordinate with Nevada Division of Forestry for the Conservation Camp crews to assist with spraying.

On May 6<sup>th</sup> Mr. Tibbitts attended the Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board meeting. The Eureka Fire Wise event was held on May 7<sup>th</sup> with over 100 people in attendance. Of that 100, six requested personal assessments of their property and/or homes. On May 8<sup>th</sup> the Crescent Valley Fire Wise event was held with over 50 in attendance. Both events were a great success and Mr. Tibbitts thanked the volunteer fire departments for hosting the events at their fire stations. On May 11<sup>th</sup> he toured the Mount Hope, Roberts Creek, and Tonkin Springs areas with Tri-Sage Consulting, who the County has contracted to review fishery related issues in the Mount Hope EIS. Mr. Tibbitts will attend the State Engineer's pre-hearing conference on May 24<sup>th</sup> in Carson City, and will attend a Mount Hope hydrology meeting at the Battle Mountain BLM office on May 26<sup>th</sup>.

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, the draft EIS for Newmont's Genesis Project in northern Eureka County was received. There is a 45-day comment period and Mr. Tibbitts will bring comments before the Board at future meeting. The footprint of the project is within previously permitted mining areas, so the impacts should be minimal and it will extend the mine life another 12 years with their existing workforce.

Mr. Tibbitts receives regular reports from the Department of Agriculture regarding Mormon crickets and grasshoppers. They are not seeing significant numbers of crickets this year, but do expect a higher density of grasshoppers.

Appointments to Diamond Valley Weed Control District Board of Directors: Mr. Tibbitts explained that the Weed District Board has been down to one member (Gary Betschart) for quite some time. The Natural Resources Department recently mailed a noxious weed newsletter to County residents which included a request for individuals interested in serving on the Weed District Board. Two letters were received, and Mr. Tibbitts recommended both individuals for appointment. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to appoint Andy Marshall of Diamond Valley and Tom Gardner of Antelope Valley (who had previously petitioned to join the Weed District) to the Weed Control District Board of Directors; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **NEPA COMMITTEE**

Update Report: Mr. Tibbitts and Abby Johnson, EIS Coordinator, provided an update on NEPA Committee activities. The last NEPA Committee meeting was held on May 13<sup>th</sup>. A new schedule for the Mount Hope Project EIS, generated by Enviroscientists, Inc., was received and lengthens the project schedule significantly, anticipating the Record of Decision being issued in June 2012. Once the BLM accepts the hydrology model report, an updated schedule should be received. Ms. Johnson also talked about the biological assessment, related to the Endangered Species Act, which is a parallel process to the EIS. Mr. Tibbitts explained that the County is not a cooperating agency on the biological assessment, but there is language in the Endangered Species Act allowing a state or a political subdivision of the state the opportunity to review and comment. The next NEPA Committee meeting will be set following the Mount Hope hydrology meeting with the BLM on May 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mount Hope Project Correspondences: Mr. Tibbitts noted that all revised reports have been received. Also received was a copy of the Sage Grouse mitigation plan. The County has been asking for this plan for two years, but was recently told by the BLM that the structure of

the EIS was changing and will not include mitigation plans, but shortly after that the Sage Grouse mitigation plan was received. Also received were the plan of development for the transmission line and the spring snail report.

Authorize Chairman to Sign Comments on Hydrology Model Report: Mr. Tibbitts explained that the deadline for comments on the Hydrology Model Report is May 28<sup>th</sup>. There may be additional comments following the meeting with the BLM on May 26<sup>th</sup>, so he asked that the Chairman sign the final comments after that date. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to authorize the Chairman to sign comments on the Hydrology Model Report outside of the meeting; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Appointment to NEPA Committee: A letter of interest in serving on the NEPA Committee was received from Lee Raine. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to appoint Lee Raine to the business representative seat on the NEPA Committee; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

## **AMBULANCE & EMS**

Update Report: Mike Sullivan, EMS Coordinator, reported on department activity over the past month. Eureka had 7 calls for service (51 calls year-to-date) and Crescent Valley had 15 calls (56 year-to-date). Total calls for the County year-to-date is 107, which is 50 more than this time last year. Both ambulance services were very busy during the past month with a variety of challenging medical and trauma calls. Crescent Valley responded to six calls at Cortez Gold Mine. Cortez is in the process of obtaining permits for their ambulances, allowing transport to the hospital, which should relieve some of the burden on the Crescent Valley ambulance crews. Mr. Sullivan reviewed staffing levels and continuing education training for both northern and southern Eureka County. From May 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>,

Mr. Sullivan traveled with nine members of the Eureka High School EMT class to the University Medical Center in Las Vegas for their emergency training. Mr. Sullivan has been working with Summit Air Ambulance on response and communication issues. Assessor, Michael Mears, has been assisting with updating the landing zone map for Summit to ensure compliance with new FAA regulations. The replacement defibrillators have been installed at the Eureka Medical Clinic and training was provided on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Eureka ambulance volunteers participating in a drill at Ruby Hill Mine on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Also on April 20<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Sullivan assisted EMT Intermediate, Briana Brown, with CPR training for the Eureka Volunteer Fire Department.

Eureka County has been invited to participate in Nevada Project Heartbeat, a statewide initiative to place defibrillators in public places. A grant in 2006 placed several defibrillators in Eureka County. Mr. Sullivan will attend their quarterly meeting in Reno on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

Coordination Between Emergency Departments: On May 13<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Sullivan, Commissioner Page, and Human Resources Analyst, Jerry Larson, met with Crescent Valley Fire Chief, Phil Schmitz, and Assistant Chief, Virgil Roper, to discuss issues they raised in a previous meeting. Mr. Sullivan believes the working relationship between the two departments will steadily improve.

Mr. Sullivan reviewed the training he coordinates and provides on a regular basis, not only to the EMS volunteers, but to the Sheriff's Office, local mines, volunteer fire departments, and occasionally other organizations. Most training is designed for members of the EMS service, but nobody who wishes to participate has ever been turned away. Chief Schmitz has attended several EMS trainings, and Mr. Sullivan has attended the extrication training provided to the fire departments by Nevada Division of Forestry. He is currently working on a 40-hour first-responder course for the Eureka Volunteer Fire Department, and the Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department has also expressed interest in medical training.

Regarding the question of protocol when various emergency services respond to the same incident, Mr. Sullivan noted that nothing has been formally established in Eureka County, but since 2001 all emergency responders are trained on Incident Command System (ICS). ICS is used to help control, direct, and coordinate resources and ensures clear lines of responsibility and authority. The incident commander has overall responsibility for the scene.

If the Board decides to allow the fire departments to respond to medical incidents, Mr. Sullivan provided several recommendations, including coordinating a formal response system between EMS, the Sheriff's Office, and the fire departments; official direction from the Board in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding; and follow-up to ensure the system is working. Chairman Fiorenzi stated he has no problem with the different departments training together, but was not in favor of the fire departments becoming 'all risk' and felt that anyone interested in becoming an EMT should join the EMS. Commissioner Ithurralde agreed. In order to clarify the issue for all volunteers, the Board agreed to place an item on the June 21<sup>st</sup> agenda for a definitive decision regarding level of medical care, if any, to be provided by the fire departments.

### **NEVADA DIVISION OF FORESTRY**

Fire District Update: Sam Hicks, Eureka County Battalion Chief, provided an update on Fire District activities. The Dunphy brush engine (#51) is being refurbished and should be back in service in about a week. The tank, plumbing, hoses, tires, and lightbar have been replaced. Engines in Crescent Valley and Diamond Valley will be refurbished as well, probably in the fall so they are not out of service during the fire season. Ty Hanson has been completing various training to qualify as engine boss. As a National Guardsman, Mr. Hanson has been called to active duty and will complete a one-year deployment beginning this fall. Mr. Hicks stated it is up to the Board whether the position is filled during that year, but felt there really wasn't much benefit by the time a candidate is selected and trained. The state-funded seasonal firefighter began earlier in the month. All NDF employees are taking mandatory furloughs, and schedules are being worked around those to avoid lapses in coverage. Pack testing and training are being completed with NDF, the fire departments, and Cortez mine. The new truck, assigned to Firefighter Hanson, went into service earlier in the week and is ready to fight fires. Lightbars on some of the units are being changed from the rotator style to LEDs, which are less draw on the electrical system. The LEDs have become available at no cost from Nevada Highway Patrol because NHP is going to another style.

Reporting Schedule: NDF has been providing quarterly reports, but the Board would like to hear monthly reports. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to have the Battalion Chief report on a monthly basis, especially during fire season; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Annual Operating Plan for Eureka Volunteer Fire Department: The Annual Operating Plan for the Eureka Volunteer Fire Department has been reviewed by the Board, Mr. Hicks, and Eureka Fire Chief, Dan Brown. Chairman Fiorenzi reiterated that the chiefs are welcome to bring changes before the Board if necessary, because everyone wants the AOPs to be workable plans. Commissioner Page motioned to approve the Annual Operating Plan for the Eureka Volunteer Fire Department; Commissioner Ithurralde seconded; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Page asked about compatibility of radios with the changeover to digital. Mr. Hicks assured him that any radios purchased for replacement are the recommended digital model, and the conversion is still a couple years out.

### **CRESCENT VALLEY TOWN ADVISORY BOARD**

Authorized Use of Recording System: The Crescent Valley Town Board forwarded a request from Adell Panning, Site Director for the Fannie Komp Senior Center, to utilize the

FTR (For the Record) recording system at the Crescent Valley Town Center for meetings. Commissioner Page motioned to approve use of the recording system for Senior Center meetings; Commissioner Ithurralde seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

**LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)**

Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant Application: Lisa Hoehne, LEPC Secretary, reported that the committee met on May 6<sup>th</sup> and approved six emergency responders to attend a conference in Reno for hazmat training in October. This grant application is for costs related to attendance of the conference by those six members and must be signed by the Commission Chairman and the LEPC Chairman. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant application in the amount of \$5,075.84; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

**RECESS FOR LUNCH**

The Board recessed for lunch from 11:55 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**RESOLUTIONS HONORING LOCAL SERVICEMEN**

Resolutions Honoring Allen Edward Dory and Justin Moody: Commissioner Page motioned to adopt resolutions honoring servicemen Allen Edward Dory and Justin Moody for service to their country; Commissioner Ithurralde seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Eureka, Nevada	<b>RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING ALLEN EDWARD DORY A COMMUNITY MEMBER OF EUREKA COUNTY, NEVADA</b>	May 20, 2010
<p>WHEREAS, the Board of Eureka County Commissioners wish to honor and commend Allen Edward Dory for services to his country by serving the Armed Forces of the United States of America; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, Allen Edward Dory faithfully served from May 2, 2005, through May 1, 2010, in the United States Marines;</p> <p>NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of the Eureka County Commissioners recognize and honor Allen Edward Dory for his loyal commitment to the United States of America. The County Clerk is hereby directed to publish this resolution in the minutes of the Eureka County Commissioners and provide a copy to Allen Edward Dory.</p> <p>ADOPTED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2010.</p>		
	<p>Board of Eureka County Commissioners County of Eureka, State of Nevada</p> <p>By: <u>/s/ Leonard Fiorenzi</u> Leonard Fiorenzi, Chairman</p> <p>By: <u>/s/ J.P. Ithurralde</u> J.P. Ithurralde, Vice Chairman</p> <p>By: <u>/s/ Mike Page</u> Mike Page, Member</p>	
	<p>ATTEST: <u>/s/ Jackie Berg</u> Jackie Berg, Clerk of the Board</p>	

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUSTIN MOODY  
A COMMUNITY MEMBER OF EUREKA COUNTY, NEVADA**

WHEREAS, the Board of Eureka County Commissioners wish to honor and commend Justin Moody for services to his country by serving the Armed Forces of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Justin Moody faithfully served from December 14, 2004, through December 14, 2009, in the United States Navy;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of the Eureka County Commissioners recognize and honor Justin Moody for his loyal commitment to the United States of America. The County Clerk is hereby directed to publish this resolution in the minutes of the Eureka County Commissioners and provide a copy to Justin Moody.

ADOPTED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2010.

Board of Eureka County Commissioners  
County of Eureka, State of Nevada

By: /s/ Leonard Fiorenzi  
Leonard Fiorenzi, Chairman

By: /s/ J.P. Ithurrealde  
J.P. Ithurrealde, Vice Chairman

By: /s/ Mike Page  
Mike Page, Member

ATTEST: /s/ Jackie Berg  
Jackie Berg, Clerk of the Board

**EUREKA MEDICAL CLINIC**

Update on Eureka Medical Clinic: Duane "Duke" Gibson, Physician Assistant, provided a brief update on activities at the medical clinic. An interview has been scheduled in June with one of the physicians interested in the open position at the clinic. Dr. Carl Heard, who has been filling in at the clinic since April, has committed to staying through August. The Clinic has been notifying the public that the free sports physicals will not be offered this year. PA Gibson has not been informed by Nevada Health Centers of the reason for this reduction in service, but speculated that it is a result of the faltering economy. The Commissioners voiced disappointment in this cut in services, noting that this had been very beneficial to the local students. They asked if NVHC might consider an alternative, and PA Gibson promised to pass the inquiry on. The Board thanked him for the update on the clinic.

**EUREKA COUNTY SHERIFF**

Firearms Training Equipment: Sheriff Ken Jones requested authorization to purchase four sets of firearms training equipment to be paid for with budgeted training funds, explaining that this equipment will provide for more realistic training in what is called 'live fire training'. Commissioner Ithurrealde motioned to approve the purchase of the firearms training equipment from San Diego Police Supply in the amount of \$4,483.85; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

**COMMISSIONERS**

Update Reports: The Board reported on activities since the last meeting. Commissioner Page attended a Nevada Works meeting, a meeting at Barrick Cortez Mine; the Crescent

Valley Fire Wise Community meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup>; and met with various emergency services on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Ithurralde attended the budget meeting and public hearing on the Eureka County Personnel Policy on May 17<sup>th</sup>; the Eureka Moly open house on May 19<sup>th</sup>; and visited the Eureka Airport and Fixed Base Operators, John and Mary Walzl, commenting that everything is in excellent condition and the place is immaculate. Chairman Fiorenzi attended the budget meeting and public hearing on May 17<sup>th</sup>; met with EMS Coordinator, Mike Sullivan, on May 18<sup>th</sup>; the Eureka Moly open house on May 19<sup>th</sup>; and also met with David Craig, Director of Real Estate for Nevada Rural Housing Authority.

Cost Reports Related to Mount Hope Project: At the May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, staff reported on the breakdown of costs related to the Mount Hope Project EIS and NEPA process, and the Board felt these costs should be tracked and reported to the Board on a regular basis. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to request reports on breakdown of costs related to the Mount Hope Project EIS and NEPA process on a quarterly basis; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. Following the motion, the Board agreed to hear these reports at the quarterly meetings scheduled in Crescent Valley. The next quarterly meeting is July 15<sup>th</sup>.

Request from Elko Commissioners to Promote Radio Public Service Announcements: The Elko County Board of Commissioners mailed a request to neighboring Commissions requesting them to encourage the airing of public service announcements related to fire prevention. Since Eureka County does not have a radio station, the Board declined any action related to this item.

House Available to Local Governments: A house on 585 El Cajon in Devil's Gate GID is available from the Department of Agriculture and is being offered to local governments for \$1.00. If the County agrees to purchase this home, they have two options: (a) they can retain ownership and work with the involved housing agencies, HUD will finance needed repairs, and the house can be sold or rented to a County employee; or (b) they can immediately sign the house over to Nevada Rural Housing Authority, and NRHA will handle coordination of repairs and sale of the home, with proceeds of the sale going to a local affordable housing program. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned that Eureka County purchase the house on 585 El Cajon for \$1.00 and complete necessary paperwork to immediately sign the property over to Nevada Rural Housing Authority; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. The Board directed the District Attorney to contact the agencies to proceed with the necessary documentation.

### **RECESS UNTIL 5:00 P.M. MEETING WITH SCHOOL BOARD**

The Board recessed from 1:25 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### **JOINT MEETING WITH EUREKA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The meeting resumed at 5:00 p.m. for a joint meeting with the Eureka County School District Board of Trustees. Commissioner Ithurralde was unable to attend, but was able to participate in a portion of the meeting via telephone. School Board members present were: President John Brown, Robert Burnham, Anne Conley, and Benita Jones (by video conference from Crescent Valley). Duane 'Duke' Gibson joined the meeting at a later time. Superintendent, Ben Zunino was also in attendance.

Discussion Regarding Proposal to Remodel Old Elementary School Building: Chairman Fiorenzi stated that the Commissioners had been approached to consider a project to refurbish the old Elementary School building to a multi-purpose facility including a community recreation center; the proposal included that this would be a joint venture with the School District and could cost up to \$15 million. President Brown replied that the School Board supported the

proposal, but did not wish to share in a joint tenancy on this project; therefore, would be interested in donating the property, or a portion thereof, to the County for this project.

A lengthy discussion ensued between all parties, considering how this project might work, what preliminary evaluations of the building should be done, and whether this was an appropriate time to commit the amount of funding that would be required. Chairman Fiorenzi asked several questions of the School District, including: whether there are any encumbrances on the property; whether federal funds were used in the building or maintenance of the building; and whether asbestos or any other hazardous materials were used in the construction of the building. The School Board members had no knowledge of any hindrances associated with the building, but this would have to be researched. It was also stated that no tax increase, fee to the public, or bond issue will be considered for this construction project.

County Recorder/Auditor, Mike Rebaleati, asked what portion of the property the School had considered donating. President Brown and Member Burnham replied that preliminary consideration was to donate the old grade school and the park area and property east of the building, but this would be given more consideration.

Public Comment and Questions: Chairman Fiorenzi opened the floor for public input. Robert Stephenson, Sr., was concerned about future costs for maintenance and staffing of a recreational facility, and asked that these costs be presented to the public in addition to the construction costs. Connie Hicks stated she was in favor of refurbishing the building in the same historical spirit as the County had when they refurbished the Sentinel Museum, the Opera House, and the County Courthouse. Gary McCuin, Cooperative Extension, stated that his office circulated a survey regarding this issue, and it received a favorable response, although he did not provide cost estimates along with the survey. Joyce Jeppesen asked if the County would be in favor of securing a grant for this project. Chairman Fiorenzi and County staff commented on the restrictions associated with federal grants, which could cause hindrances to the project.

Advisory Question for 2010 General Election Ballot: Chairman Fiorenzi felt enough comments were received to support making a motion that the County move forward with placing an advisory question and cost estimate on the 2010 General Election ballot so the public could vote for or against the project; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 2-0. Chairman Fiorenzi reiterated that he was not in favor of spending money on studies of the building, but preferred that the cost estimates (to complete any preliminary work or studies) also be included in the overall cost estimate presented to the public in the advisory question.

Appointment of Advisory Question 'Pro' and 'Con' Committees: District Attorney, Ted Beutel, informed that the advisory question must be submitted to the County Clerk by the third Monday in July and must include the question, arguments in favor and against, and the financial impact. The 'pro' and 'con' arguments are formulated by committees, which are appointed by the Commissioners, and mediated/assisted by the District Attorney and County Clerk.

Chairman Fiorenzi called for volunteers, and then motioned to appoint the committees as follows: Mike Rebaleati (pro); Steve Zimmerman (pro); Gary McCuin (pro); Ben Zunino (con); Annie Conley (con); and Commissioner Fiorenzi (con). Commissioner Page seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Advisory Question Sample Language: The District Attorney recommended that the Commissioners agree on the advisory question language and set the meeting date and time for the 'pro' and 'con' committees, so these items will be included on the June 7<sup>th</sup> agenda. In order for the arguments to be written with clarity and accuracy, a formal offer will be required from the School District specifically identifying the portion of the property being offered, and the cost estimate will have to be supplied. After continued discussion on a cost estimate, the

Board concurred that the sum of \$15 million could be stated in the question as a not to exceed amount for construction of the project. Commissioner Page motioned that the advisory question should ask whether the County should acquire the old Elementary School building, as a gift from the School District, for the purpose of remodeling the building to serve as a community recreation facility, for a construction cost not to exceed \$15 million; Commissioner Ithurralde seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. The District Attorney will draft the advisory question with these elements and present it to the Board at their June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting for approval.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Fiorenzi opened the floor to public comment. Several audience members asked for clarification on what portion of the property the School District planned to offer. President Brown stated this will be discussed in more detail at the next School Board meeting. There were no further comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Page motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m.; Chairman Fiorenzi seconded the motion; motion carried 2-0. (Commissioner Ithurralde attended a portion of the meeting via teleconference, but excused himself prior to adjournment).

Approved this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2010.

/s/ Leonard Fiorenzi

Leonard Fiorenzi, Chairman

Attest: /s/ Jackie Berg

Jackie Berg, Clerk