

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Quarterly Meeting - July 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. Immediately following the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Ithurralde requested a moment of reflection in memory of Storey County Commissioner, John Flanagan, who recently passed away.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve the agenda as posted; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chairman opened the floor for public comments. Virgil Roper stated that Charley Harper, Crescent Valley resident and member of the Volunteer Fire Department, recently passed away. A memorial service will be held on Labor Day weekend and he requested that the County write a letter of recognition in time for that event. The Board agreed to adopt a resolution in memory of Charley Harper and requested that this item be placed on the August 6th agenda.

There were no further public comments.

JOINT MEETING WITH CRESCENT VALLEY TOWN ADVISORY BOARD (CVTAB)

Crescent Valley Water Usage for Out-of-Town Customers: At an earlier meeting, the Commissioners had asked the CVTAB to provide an opinion regarding out-of-town customers utilizing the Crescent Valley Town Water System. Dawn Gann, CVTAB member, stated they had discussed the issue and their recommendation was that current users be 'grandfathered' in, and that applications from out-of-town residents not be allowed in the future. This item was discussed further under Public Works.

Future Costs Related to Arsenic Treatment Plant and Reevaluation of Water Rates: Chairman Fiorenzi reminded everyone that only one bid was received for this project on June 6th, and that bid had been rejected on June 21st based on estimated operating costs of over \$100,000.00 per year. The project was re-bid with bid opening and bid award set for July 20th. Clearly, the current water system revenues will not support the annual operating and maintenance (O&M) costs of the arsenic treatment, and Chairman Fiorenzi wanted the Crescent Valley residents to be forewarned that the Board will have to plan for the future viability of the system by making some hard decisions. If the County subsidizes all O&M costs, then the Crescent Valley water system is totally dependent upon the County's financial security. Therefore, it is in the best interest of the system that it supports itself, and this will likely result in increased service fees. The County may be able to set up a monetary fund to ease this transition, but something must be done.

Ms. Gann asked how the Eureka Town water system supports itself. Chairman Fiorenzi noted that the Eureka system does not have arsenic treatment costs. Ms. Gann had several ideas for saving costs or generating revenues, such as bypassing costs by not treating water that is sold for construction and possibly implementing a special assessment on all town residents, whether they are water users or not.

Proposal to Amend the Crescent Valley Water System Ordinance: Chairman Fiorenzi felt it was premature to consider amendments to the ordinance, at least in relation to water rates. This can be considered once the actual costs are more defined, which won't be until after the bid is awarded for the arsenic treatment project. District Attorney, Ted Beutel, reminded the Board that an amendment should be entertained if they wished to grandfather current out-of-town users into the system, or this could be done by resolution until the Board is ready to amend the ordinance related to water rates.

Crescent Valley Medical Clinic: The CVTAB had placed this item on the agenda to address continuing complaints regarding the Crescent Valley Medical Clinic. Chairwoman Gloria Sharrow explained that they are still receiving complaints about the clinic not being open on its scheduled days and there are issues with the new automated phone system. Chairman Fiorenzi explained that the Commissioners just negotiated a new contract with Nevada Health Centers, Inc., and the lack of provider hours at the Crescent Valley Medical Clinic was addressed. The contract is still pending approval by Nevada Health Centers, but Crescent Valley should expect to see improvement regarding provider days and hours. As far as the phone system, the same automated system was installed in the Eureka Clinic.

Cooling System for Crescent Valley Community Center: Commissioner Page explained that instead of a refrigerated cooling system for the Crescent Valley Community Center, an evaporative cooling system was now being considered. The CVTAB members agreed that an evaporative cooling system was preferable. Public Works has requested a quote from Carrier Corporation for equipment and installation.

Park Equipment: Park/playground equipment was approved during the budget for the Crescent Valley Town Park. Vicki Drenon, Crescent Valley Public Works, reported that shipping through the original vendor was nearly as much as the equipment itself, so they are currently looking for a source with more reasonable shipping.

Park Design: During the budget process the Recorder/Auditor, Mike Rebaleati, notified the Board that the park redesign would be funded from the Public Works budget. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to authorize Public Works to proceed with a request for qualifications for a landscape architect for the Crescent Valley Park Redesign Project as budgeted; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. Ms. Gann asked if the park redesign would include the bathrooms, and Mr. Damele responded that it would.

PUBLIC WORKS

Architect for ARRA Energy Grant Project at Eureka Road Shop: Public Works Director, Ron Damele, proposed developing a request for qualifications (RFQ) to advertise for an architect for work related to the Energy Conservation Block Grant awarded for the Eureka Road Shop. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to authorize Public Works to advertise a RFQ for an architect to prepare plans and bid specifications for the Energy Efficiency Grant Project for the Eureka Road Shop; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Surplus Property for County Auction: Mr. Damele presented a list of items no longer being utilized by the County and requested approval to move forward with the tentatively scheduled County auction. Commissioner Page motioned to approve holding a County auction on August 21st and to declare the items presented on the list as surplus property; Commissioner Ithurralde seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for X-Ray Upgrade: Public Works received notification on June 28th that the CDBG grant for the digital x-ray upgrade at the Eureka Medical Clinic was approved in the amount of \$49,500.00. Paperwork was subsequently received requiring the Chairman's signature. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to have the Chairman sign the Notice of Grant Award for the CDBG grant for the digital x-ray upgrade; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned that the Chairman sign a CDBG certification letter naming Mr. Damele as the authorized County representative to withdraw grant funds; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Sale of Water from Crescent Valley Town Water System: The Crescent Valley Water System Ordinance does not provide for sale of water to customers residing outside the town boundaries; therefore, Public Works requested direction regarding termination, modification, or continued sale of water from the Crescent Valley Town Water System to customers not residing in Crescent Valley. Earlier in the meeting, a recommendation was heard from the CVTAB that existing out-of-town users be grandfathered into the system, and that future sale of water to persons residing outside of the town boundaries be discontinued. Mr. Damele noted that there were currently eight active unmetered accounts. He concurred with the Town Board's recommendation, adding that the grandfathered accounts should be non-transferrable.

Commissioner Page was uncomfortable restricting the sale of water in this manner, stating that it hinders people from purchasing property where they cannot get water. Chairman Fiorenzi reminded him that the Eureka County Master Plan states that growth and development should be encouraged within the townsites. Commissioner Ithurralde added that there are numerous lots available within the townsite. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned that the existing out-of-town water customers be grandfathered in to the Crescent Valley water system, consisting of the following non-transferrable accounts: #233, #252, #263, #264, #277, #278, #284, and #286; and that water no longer be sold to out-of-town customers, with the exception of construction water pending the County's water permit being amended to reflect this; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 2-1, with Commissioner Page voting against the motion.

Radio Repeater Space on Mary's Mountain: As part of the radio repeater upgrades, Mr. Damele recommended relocating the Sheriff's Office repeater and the Public Works Department repeater to the Nevada Department of Information Technology (DoIT) building, which was more secure with backup power supply and premium antenna location. Commissioner Ithurralde motioned to approve renting radio repeater rack space on Mary's Mountain from Nevada DoIT, for a current annual fee of \$1,928.74, with the understanding that this fee could change in the future; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Contract with Western States Enterprises for Mountaintop Repeater Upgrades: The County advertised a request for proposals for mountaintop repeater upgrades for the Sheriff's Office and Public Works radio network and the most responsive and responsible bid was received from Western States Enterprises. Commissioner Page motioned to approve the contract with Western States Enterprises from July 15 through December 31, 2010, for mountaintop repeater upgrades not to exceed \$86,796.85; Commissioner Ithurralde seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

NEVADA HEALTH CENTERS, INC.

FY 2010-2011 Contract: Tom Chase, CEO of Nevada Health Centers, presented the Board with the signed contract for the current fiscal year, which was approved by the Commissioners at their July 6th meeting.

Update on Crescent Valley Medical Clinic: Mr. Chase provided the written report on patient and provider activity at the Crescent Valley Clinic for June. Mr. Chase reported that he is scheduled to interview a Physician's Assistant candidate next Thursday, who would serve both clinics. NVHC is currently looking for housing in Eureka and will present a request at a future Commissioners' meeting for the County's assistance in funding housing for the new Physician's Assistant. Recruitment efforts continue for the primary physician in Eureka. They have contacted a candidate who has agreed to an interview and would be available next May.

Mr. Chase gave a detailed report on budgeting for the clinics, charges for services, sliding scale, and how NVHC tracks risk-management cases. Telemedicine is still in the hands of the Board of Pharmacy, pending regulations to allow it to move forward under new legislation.

CVTAB Chairwoman, Gloria Sharrow, relayed the citizens' concerns about having consistent days at the clinic and problems with the automated phone system. Mr. Chase assured that direction has been given to administrative staff to schedule consistent provider days and flyers will be distributed soon with this information.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Report on Mormon Cricket and Grasshopper Activity: Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts, stated he has received a lot of calls from the Crescent Valley and Pioneer Pass areas about cricket and grasshopper sightings, although according to the Nevada Department of Agriculture it is a mild year for infestation. Before the Department of Agriculture can treat on federal lands, the BLM must submit a pesticide use proposal, and the Elko District BLM did not get their proposal finalized. Treatment on private land is the property owner's responsibility and a variety of products are available at home supply stores.

COMMISSIONERS

Quarterly Breakdown of Costs Related to Mt. Hope Project EIS: Mr. Tibbitts provided a written report of costs related to the Mt. Hope Project EIS and related water litigation. He noted that the amounts paid for water studies being done in conjunction with the US Geological Survey were paid from Barrick mitigation funds and were not expended from County revenues.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from: Connie Hicks; press release regarding termination of the lease between Eureka County and Eureka Moly; District Attorney, Ted Beutel (11); Clerk & Treasurer, Jackie Berg (3); Public Works Director, Ron Damele; Eureka County Planning Commission; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board (3); Humboldt River Basin Water Authority; Nevada Assoc. of Counties; Western Counties Alliance; Nevada Senator John Lee; Nevada Div. of Forestry, Tom Turk; Nevada Division of Water Resources; Nevada Energy; Nevada Aerospace Hall of Fame; NDOT Centerline newsletter; and Nevada Connections newsletter.

The notice regarding a ban on burning, received from Nevada Division of Forestry, was read into the record: *"NDF in conjunction with the northeast area of the Eureka County Fire Protection District will close all controlled burning as of Friday, July 16, 2010. This includes yard trimmings, limbs, and brush piles in the unincorporated areas of Elko and Eureka Counties. All 2010 burn permits will expire on that date."*

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Fiorenzi opened the floor for public comments. Dawn Gann felt a special water assessment for town residents not connected to the water system would help dissipate operation costs. The District Attorney clarified that a special assessment would have to be applied to all town residents, therefore residents already paying a metered rate would also be charged. Vicki Drenon commented that this would receive a strong negative reaction from town residents. There were no further public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Ithurralde noted that the next quarterly meeting will be held on October 15th, and motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:42 a.m.; Commissioner Page seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Approved this 7th day of September, 2010.

/s/ Leonard Fiorenzi
Leonard Fiorenzi, Chairman

Attest: /s/ Jackie Berg
Jackie Berg, Clerk