

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 20, 2021

STATE OF NEVADA)
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COUNTY OF EUREKA)

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law on August 20, 2021. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea, Vice Chair Michael Sharkozy, Commissioner Rich McKay, District Attorney Ted Beutel, and Administrative Assistant Jackie Berg. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. The interactive video conferencing system was connected and utilized between Crescent Valley and Eureka for the entire meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Goicoechea said certain agenda items would be taken out of order to accommodate scheduling conflicts with staff. The County’s indigent defense plan was tabled until the next meeting, to ensure that all parties have a chance to review the final edits.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the agenda as amended; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments.

Patricia Akon, Diamond Valley resident, said she writes for *Range Magazine* and, in interviewing Sheriff Watts recently, asked when Eureka County was going to become a “Constitutional County,” like other rural counties. Ms. Akon relayed that the Sheriff told her the item was removed from the agenda for political reasons. She stated that it is a “very dark hour” for our nation right now and, *“if we’re going to retain any of our freedoms, I think we have to do it under the Constitution.”*

Chairman Goicoechea noted that the item in question was never included on a published agenda. The procedure to remove an item from the agenda, is for the Board to state any changes at the onset of the meeting when the agenda is approved, and any changes are recorded in the minutes of the Board.

Eureka resident, Cindy Adams, commented that she is thankful the Board is not considering becoming a “Constitutional County,” as part of a movement that asserts a Sheriff’s authority supersede all other elected officials, local or federal.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 20, 2021: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve minutes of the July 20, 2021, Commission meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

COMMISSIONERS

Waive Facility Fees: St. Brendan’s Church has planned an event on August 21st at the Eureka Fairgrounds to celebrate its 150th anniversary. Diane Podborny explained that the cook shack, pavilion, and fair building will be used, and she asked that the Board waive all facility fees.

Chairman Goicoechea recused himself since he is involved in the event. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to waive all facility fees for use of the Eureka Fairgrounds on August 21st to celebrate the 150th anniversary of St. Brendan’s Church; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 2-0.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Report on Activities: Natural Resources Manager Jake Tibbitts reported on recent activities and upcoming meetings.

Upcoming Meetings: Mr. Tibbitts will attend the Central Nevada Regional Water Authority meeting scheduled later that morning. In the upcoming week, Mr. Tibbitts and the Chairman will attend the UNR CABNR (College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources) Advisory Committee meeting. The BLM has scheduled two virtual public scoping meetings, August 25th and August 26th, for the proposed Nevada Gold Mines Goldrush Mine Project to begin the Environmental Impact Statement process. On August 31st, the Navy's FRTC Intergovernmental Executive Committee will meet. Chairman Goicoechea is a member and Mr. Tibbitts is an alternate on the IEC.

The Crescent Valley/Beowawe Firewise Committee will meet on August 27th. The annual Firewise events are scheduled on September 17th for the Eureka/Diamond Valley Firewise Community, and on September 18th for the Crescent Valley/Beowawe Firewise Community.

Mormon Crickets: The Board and Mr. Tibbitts each received a letter from the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) informing that the federal monies provided to Nevada, for survey and treatment of Mormon Crickets, will be exhausted after the 2022 season. The funding was received in 2004 when Congress allocated \$6.7 million to US Department of Agriculture APHIS (Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service) for the affected states of Nevada, Idaho, and Utah. Funding in the other states is depleted as well, and APHIS does not intend to pursue another allocation. The NDA letter was seeking assistance from stakeholders to identify alternative methods to fill this financial gap. Mr. Tibbitts will work with the Eureka Conservation District to look for potential resources to keep this program intact.

Wild Horses: The BLM continues the emergency wild horse gathers as part of its plan, announced on August 2nd, to remove 6,000 wild horses by the end of September from western rangelands due to extreme drought conditions. The latest BLM notice relayed plans to remove 450 horses from the Stone Cabin area in southern Monitor Valley.

Waters of the US: The US Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers are working to replace the Navigable Waters Protection Rule (WOTUS Rule) and to define the term, "Waters of the United States." The rule has changed several times in the last two administrations, and the current rule, changed during the Trump administration, has been working well. Changing the rule entails a multi-step process. The agencies are accepting comments on their proposal to repeal the current rule and replace it with what existed prior to 2015.

Mr. Tibbitts prepared a response letter stating Eureka County does not support the proposed rule change, and repeal of the existing rule is not needed. The letter references the formal, substantive comments submitted by Eureka County on the 2015 WOTUS Rule as well as the current rule.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to respond to the US Environmental Protection Agency and US Army Corps of Engineers with the letter outlining the reasons Eureka County does not support repeal of the current Waters of the US Rule (Navigable Waters Protection Rule). Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

McEwen Mining Gold Bar South EA: The BLM is requesting public comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment for McEwen Mining's Gold Bar South Project. The proposed expansion would increase the total surface disturbance associated with the mine and would extend mining for about two years. McEwen Mining is working with Eureka County to mitigate any concerns the County has, which are primarily related to traffic issues and road conditions. Mr. Tibbitts will prepare a response letter stating Eureka County's support for the project and outlining requested changes to the Environmental Assessment.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to send a letter to the BLM in support of McEwen Mining's Gold Bar South Project, including requested changes and edits to the Environmental

Assessment, and authorized the Chairman to sign the letter outside the meeting. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Out-of-State Travel: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve out-of-state travel for the Natural Resources Manager to travel to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, to attend the National Association of Conservation Districts Pacific & Southwest Region meeting August 30th & 31st. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Tibbitts explained there will be no cost to Eureka County for travel, lodging, meals, and per diem which will all be paid by the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts.

COMPTROLLER

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Comptroller Kim Todd. Ms. Todd asked for approval of an invoice exceeding the six-month limit for items delivered to the Eureka Senior Center. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the February invoice from Food Bank of Northern Nevada in the amount of \$70.36. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Ms. Todd informed the Board that there were some fraudulent charges on an employee's credit card. Nevada State Bank sent an alert by text. The cardholder responded and confirmed the transactions were fraudulent. The bank credited the County, cancelled the credit card, and issued a replacement.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$424,568.36 for accounts payable (including the \$70.36 to Food Bank), \$397,380.53 for payroll and benefit related expenses (including employee paid deductions), for a grand total of \$821,948.89. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Fund Balance Report: The Board reviewed the report showing current fund balances.

FY 2020-2021 Ending Budget: Ms. Todd presented the year-end budget for Fiscal Year 2021, which ended on June 30, 2021. She focused on accounts that were over-expended for the year, noting that balances could change if there are any outstanding invoices, and final journal entries will be made during the audit in October.

The Human Resources budget had an overage for employee benefits of -\$4,834.12 (-15.11%), however the overall budget retained 29% of funds. Since this is a new department, benefits were estimated when this budget was created.

In Elections, salaries and benefits were overspent by -\$3,820.90 (-76.42%) and -\$940.25 (-37.61%) respectively. Overall budget was over expended by -\$44,580.39 (-56.79%). A CARES Act grant for \$68,909.00 will offset the overages, and this adjustment will be made during the audit when journal entries are posted.

The Comptroller's budget showed an overage of -\$4,452.00 in capital outlay for purchase of a copy machine, but the overall budget had an ending balance of \$186,477.50 (29.25%) in unspent funds, which will offset the purchase.

The Airport budget had an overage of -\$87,507.70 in capital outlay for work done at the Airport as part of the road maintenance project. The balance in the operating budget was \$233,935.68, which offset the capital outlay expense for a net ending year balance of \$146,427.98 (17.72% in unused funds).

The Sheriff's budget was overspent in salaries & wages by -\$3,742.42 (-0.24%), the operating budget was overspent by -\$52,468.30 (-8.61%), and capital outlay was overspent by -\$14,721.00 (-98.14%), resulting in a net ending balance of \$167,646.17 (4.87%). The department received a public safety grant of \$20,730.00, which will offset some of the overage.

Public Works overspent capital outlay to purchase a new server and fund modifications to the Jet A fuel system. The Airport would have suffered partial or total shutdown if these modifications were postponed to the next fiscal year. Positive balances in salaries and benefits, as well as the operating budget, resulted in a net year-end balance of \$708,420.73 (51.86%).

The Senior Centers budget had an overall ending balance of \$58,472.60 (8.16%), despite a negative balance of -\$17,040.85 (-11.79%) in the operating budget. This will be more than offset once \$88,195.11 in grant monies are posted during the audit.

The Museum budget had a minimal shortage in salaries & wages of -\$286.54 due to an overlap of two employees (retiree and new hire). The overall budget ended the year with a balance of \$18,190.50 (13.83%).

The Public Parks budget ended with an overall balance of \$66,553.49 (47.89%), which will offset the negative balance in employee benefits of -\$2,740.53 (-18.27%). Employee benefits paid from this budget were higher than expected because the Crescent Valley Park project was done in-house rather than hiring a contractor.

The RTC (Regional Transportation Commission) budget overspent capital outlay for the road maintenance project leaving a balance of -\$43,650.00 (-1.31%), but had a balance in the operating budget of \$178,313.46 (99.06%) and an overall ending budget of \$134,663.46 (3.84%).

The Capital Projects Fund operating budget ended with -\$54,118.19 (-257.71%), but had an overall positive net balance of \$743,464.12 (32.37%).

The Crescent Valley Fire Department budget had negative balances in salaries and benefits of -\$1,011.96 (-22.49%) and -\$497.64 (-41.47%), but had a positive overall ending balance of \$20,334.44 (39.33%). The overage in salaries and wages was due to an end-of-the-year adjustment that should have been posted to the previous fiscal year.

The Television District overspent the operating budget for Tank Hill, leaving a balance of -\$7,636.81 (-69.43%), but did not expend capital outlay, resulting in an overall ending balance of \$7,363.19 (28.32%).

For the Diamond Valley Weed District budget, the Commissioners authorized purchase of an ATV, rather than budgeting it in the subsequent budget year, resulting in a capital outlay balance of -\$11,426.20. The overall budget balance was \$13,221.08 (21.64%).

The Yucca Mountain budget reflected an overall ending balance of -\$60,040.87 (-40.03%), but this is because the fund was dissolved and all monies were transferred to the General Fund.

The Accident Indigent Fund is simply a pass-through fund for indigent tax that goes to the State of Nevada and always shows a negative balance. Therefore, a negative balance in this fund does not result in an audit finding.

The County Indigent Hospital Fund had an over-expended balance of -\$2,216.82 (-8.53%) in benefits, but this was due to an unforeseen change in an employee's dependent status, resulting in higher insurance premiums. The overall ending balance was \$47,318.07 (34.79%).

The overall ending fund balance for Eureka County's budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 was \$10,189,088.83 (28.47%), and this number will increase once all grants are posted during the audit.

ARPA Funds: Ms. Todd said Eureka County will receive \$394,109.00 under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which was adopted to provide additional funding to state and local governments for COVID-19 relief. Eureka County received the first of two installments (\$197,000.00) in May; the second installment is expected in May 2022. Use of the funds is restricted to the following categories: (1) to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts; (2) to provide premium pay for essential workers; (3) to fund government services that have suffered revenue loss due to the pandemic; and (4) to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

The funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and spent by December 31, 2026. The Board discussed potential projects that might qualify for ARPA funding. Ms. Todd noted that the County will not qualify for some of the spending categories since there haven't been substantial revenue losses, there have been no layoffs of essential workers, and the County does not provide internet service to the public. Jeb Rowley said he has several projects on the horizon that would potentially qualify. He added that, in speaking with State and federal officials working

to navigate this pandemic, there has been a lot of interest and focus on water and sewer infrastructure plans.

Chairman Goicoechea offered that the County has put forth a lot of effort and finances to find a municipal water source to lessen the demand on the Diamond Valley water basin. He suggested earmarking these funds towards that effort. The other Commissioners agreed.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to allocate \$394,109.00 in funds, received through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), to the County's endeavor to find and develop a municipal water source outside of the Diamond Valley water basin. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

COMMISSIONERS

Public Health Services Contract: The contract with the State for mandatory public health services was presented to the Board for approval. This contract is for provision of public health services such as investigating and reporting infectious diseases, prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, HIV testing and counseling, TB screening and treatment, public vaccine clinics, etc. In reviewing the contract, Chairman Goicoechea noted that the listed point of contact for Eureka County was incorrect and should be updated to list Comptroller Kim Todd.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the two-year Intrastate Interlocal Contract with the Nevada Department of Health & Human Services, Division of Public & Behavioral Health, Community Health Services Program, for provision of mandatory public health services for the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023, for a not to exceed amount of \$22,428.00, with the contract edited to reflect the correct point of contact for Eureka County. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Contract for Housing Inmates: Sheriff Watts has been working with neighboring counties on the potential of housing Eureka County inmates in a neighboring county for a fee. The Chairman stated that once an agreement is drafted, it should be reviewed by the District Attorneys and Sheriffs of both counties, and then presented to both counties' Boards of Commissioners for final approval.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to pursue a contract with White Pine County for housing Eureka County inmates and, after review by the District Attorneys and Sheriffs of both counties, to present the contract at a future meeting for Board approval in compliance with NRS 211.010. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Jail Budget: Housing inmates elsewhere will impact the portion of the Sheriff's budget that includes detentions. If an agreement is approved, the jail will no longer require full staffing, but there will be a need for personnel to receive, process, and transport inmates. The Board agreed that a decision about reducing funds budgeted for the jail cannot be made until the details of the agreement are known.

Resolution Supporting Boys & Girls Club: Ashley Adams explained there is a group of moms who have joined together to do what they can to get a much-needed child care facility in Eureka. They reached out to Mike Wurm, President and CEO of the Truckee Meadows Boys & Girls Club.

Mr. Wurm was in attendance to answer any questions the Board might have. The Truckee Meadows chapter would like to expand services to establish a Boys & Girls Club in Eureka. The Club has engaged with local citizens to identify the unmet need for a licensed facility for kids who are five years of age and younger. The first order of business for the Eureka Boys & Girls Club will be to pursue establishing a 4,500 square foot facility, with adjacent playground, suitable for children age 5 and younger, with enough space for future expansion of facilities and services. Mr. Wurm explained that the Club comes into an area, not to exhaust the local resources, but instead to work with the local community to help organize resources and use local talent. It brings assistance in accessing financial resources, fundraising, grant writing, and other support such as

human resources, training and education. And, of course, will offer the service that Boys & Girls Clubs are best known for, the after-school programs. He said the local group is very motivated and his chapter is excited and willing to offer whatever assistance is needed.

A resolution of the Board was drafted to support creation of the Eureka Boys & Girls Club and the Club's intent to establish a child care facility in Eureka. In the resolution, the Board pledges to consider future lease or conveyance of real property and a future grant or donation.

Laura Oslund, PACE Coalition, explained that PACE supports three Boys & Girls Clubs in Elko, and was involved in getting one started in White Pine County. PACE provides support, including financial support for purchasing supplies and covering a portion of payroll costs. PACE is willing to similarly assist a Boys & Girls Club in Eureka.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve and adopt a resolution in support of efforts by the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows to establish the Boys & Girls Club of Eureka and to consider future assistance through donation of funds and/or donation of land. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Eureka, Nevada

August 20, 2021

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EUREKA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
IN SUPPORT OF THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF TRUCKEE MEADOWS
TO ESTABLISH A BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF EUREKA**

ABOUT THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

WHEREAS, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America had its beginnings in 1860 with three women in Hartford, Connecticut – Mary Goodwin, Alice Goodwin and Elizabeth Hammersley. Believing that boys who roamed the streets should have a positive alternative, they organized the first Club. With character development as the cornerstone of the experience, the Club focused on capturing kid's interests, improving their behavior, and increasing their personal expectations and goals; and

WHEREAS, today the Boys & Girls Clubs of America is a duly recognized private, non profit 26 USC 501©(3) corporation in good standing, established under federal law (36 USC 1101(16)), alongside such organizations as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Agricultural Hall of Fame, and Navy Club; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs is to enable all young people, especially those who need services the most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens; and

WHEREAS, the vision of the Boys & Girls Clubs is to work to assure success is within reach of every young person who enters a Club's doors, with all members on track to graduate from high school with a plan for the future, demonstrating good character and citizenship, and living a healthy lifestyle; and

ABOUT THE TRUCKEE MEADOWS CHAPTER

WHEREAS, the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows successfully operates sites in Reno and all around rural Nevada, including Ely, Fernley, and Winnemucca; and

WHEREAS, the Truckee Meadows chapter is excited by the opportunity to expand its services to establish a Boys & Girls Club of Eureka, and has engaged with local citizens in Eureka, Nevada, to identify the unmet need for a licensed facility for those kids who are five years of age and younger; and

WHEREAS, to be as effective as possible in any community, the Boys & Girls Club reaches out to the community's local government for statements of support, and requests for donations of land and funding; and

WHEREAS, the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows is asking for the support of the Board of Eureka County Commissioners to establish the Boys & Girls Club of Eureka; and

ABOUT BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF EUREKA

WHEREAS, the Boys & Girls Club of Eureka is contemplated to start with a 4,500 square foot facility, with an adjacent outdoor playground area appropriate for children age 5 and younger, near a circular driveway to assist with dropping off and picking up children, to also include adjacent open space to accommodate future expansion of the Boys & Girls Club of Eureka facilities for children older than 5 years of age; and

WHEREAS, the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows commits to the Board that any support in the form of land or funding will be returned to the Board if it is not put to use for the designated purpose of establishing the Boys & Girls Club of Eureka facilities described earlier in this Resolution; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EUREKA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS THAT:

This Board supports efforts by the Truckee Meadows chapter of the Boys & Girls Club to establish a Boys & Girls Club of Eureka; and

This Board supports the project contemplated to be known as the Boys & Girls Club of Eureka, to include a 4,500 square foot facility, with an adjacent outdoor playground area appropriate for children age 5 and younger, near a circular driveway to assist with dropping off and picking up children, to also include adjacent open space to accommodate future expansion of the Boys & Girls Club of Eureka facilities for children older than 5 years of age; and

This Board pledges to consider at a future agenda whether to commit under NRS 244.284 (lease or conveyance of real property of county to corporation for public benefit) to the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows an acre of suitable land now held by Eureka County within the townsite of Eureka for the future site of the Boys & Girls Club of Eureka; and

The Board pledges to consider at a future agenda whether to commit under NRS 244.1505 (expenditure of public money; grant of public money and donation of certain property to certain nonprofit organizations or governmental entities) to grant funding to the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows to develop the infrastructure necessary for the Boys & Girls Club of Eureka.

RESOLVED this 20th day of August, 2021.

Board of County Commissioners

/s/ J.J. Goicoechea, DVM
J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman

/s/ Michael Sharkozy
Michael Sharkozy, Vice Chair

/s/ Rich McKay
Richard McKay, Member

Attest: /s/ Jackie Berg
Clerk of the Board

cc: Mike Wurm, President & CEO, Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows
Eureka County District Attorney

COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER

Update on COVID-19: Chairman Goicoechea, who serves as County Health Officer, gave an update on COVID-19, the County's response, and continued recommendations for local management and mitigation. He reiterated that Eureka County is not requiring masks or vaccine passports of any kind.

Schools: With the first day of school fast approaching, Chairman Goicoechea has been working closely with Superintendent Tate Else on plans to navigate the continuing challenges posed by the pandemic. Schools are mandated to do a certain percentage of random testing, along with systematic testing of student athletes. In the past week, more than 85 students were tested. In regard to masks, teachers and coaches are required to wear masks, but it will be optional for the students.

Recommendations: Chairman Goicoechea urged everyone to continue practicing protective protocols, particularly frequent hand washing and staying home from work or school if you feel sick. He reminded everyone that COVID vaccines and boosters are still readily available.

IT DEPARTMENT

IT Update: IT Director Misty Rowley reported on IT projects and activities. She worked to update the fingerprint machine at the Sheriff's Office by entering Nevada offense codes. Ms. Rowley continues working with Public Works to review the tower lease agreements. She is studying and working to migrate offices to a cloud-based ID card system. Quest Media will be in Eureka the week of September 3rd to finalize fiber work at the fire station.

Crescent Valley Broadband: The agreement between the Library System and AT&T, for installation of fiber optic internet at the Crescent Valley Library, has been signed now that the E-rate funding has been confirmed. This will allow the County to move forward with an agreement with AT&T for installation of fiber optic internet at the Crescent Valley Town Hall.

Circuit Work: The recent phone outage was caused by circuitry issues, so a critical update was applied to the exchange server. AT&T had to do similar repairs and upgrades at the Ely office.

Network Equipment: Ms. Rowley requested authorization to purchase backup voice networking equipment. If and when a similar phone failure is experienced, this will ensure that County offices don't lose telephone service for days while waiting for parts to be delivered.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to authorize purchase of networking equipment for a not to exceed amount of \$7,399.17 utilizing funds budgeted for capital outlay (010-018-55010-000) in the Technology Support budget. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

AMBULANCE & EMS

Report on Activities: EMS Director Kenny Sanders reported there were 27 calls for ambulance service in July, 13 from the Crescent Valley station and 14 from the Eureka station. EMS sponsored a CPR class in Duckwater earlier in the week primarily for school employees, but other adults participated. A CPR class has been scheduled at the high school in Eureka to certify all coaches and bus drivers. An ambulance was on standby during the County Fair, but there were no incidents or major injuries. Interviews will be conducted on August 31st for the three candidates for the new Advanced EMT position in Crescent Valley.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Job Description: HR Director Heidi Whimple presented the new Volunteer Search & Rescue job description. A few changes were made at request of S&R Commander Arnold Pena, and he and Sheriff Watts are satisfied with the final version.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the position description for Volunteer Search & Rescue. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

TREASURER

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report for July was submitted by Treasurer Pernecia Johnson, showing an ending General Fund balance of \$41,855,190.37. The first quarterly installments for property taxes were due this month, so she expects a favorable Treasurer's Report for August.

COUNTY FACILITIES

Facilities Update: Joyce Jeppesen, Public Works Assistant Director-Administration, gave an update on activities at County managed facilities.

Eureka Opera House: In July, the Opera House had 158 tourists and 235 participants in meetings or events, which included the Old Time Fiddlers contest, LEPC hazmat training, the Alumni Dinner, the VFW Memorial Day program, and a blood drive facilitated by EMS.

Upcoming events include Eureka Restoration's Annual Wine Walk on September 18th. The Opera House is sponsoring a comedian for that evening following the Wine Walk. There was a request from a gentleman who attends all shows at the Opera House to schedule the music and comedy show, "The Cowboy Ain't Dead Yet," and that has been booked in October.

Sentinel Museum: The Museum had 300 visitors in July. Desiree Gonzalez, who began working at the Museum in mid-July, has undertaken some research projects and says she is enjoying learning about the local history.

Swimming Pool: The Pool had 1,616 swimmers for the month of July; this included two sessions of public swimming lessons. The Pool is losing two lifeguards as they pursue higher education. In the current month, the Pool was closed for repairs on August 4th and reopened on August 17th. Now that kids are returning to school, the Pool hours will be adjusted to avoid conflicts with schedules and other activities.

Eureka Canyon Subdivision: There have been no recent lot sales at the subdivision, but there are developers interested in working out an arrangement with Eureka County.

Eureka Airport: In July, 1,015 gallons of avgas were sold. Dispensing of Jet A fuel resumed on July 15th and 274 gallons were sold. Ms. Jeppesen is working with neighboring counties attempting to schedule a poker run, an event where pilots land at designated airports picking up a playing card at each stop.

Eureka Landfill: The Landfill had 144 municipal customers and 107 commercial customers in July. It received 127 tons of municipal waste and 255 tons of construction and demolition debris.

Hiring Freeze Waiver: The Board reviewed the Hiring Freeze Waiver Justification for the position of Swimming Pool Manager. Ms. Jeppesen explained she would like to begin advertising for this position on September 7th, which will give her time to update the job description and present it to the Board for approval.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to waive the hiring freeze and authorize Public Works to fill the position of Swimming Pool Manager. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Eureka Town Siren: LEPC applied for and was awarded the Fiscal Year 2022 SERC OPTE Grant from the State Emergency Response Commission in the amount of \$29,000.00. The monies will be used to replace the Eureka town siren, which has been in service for 26 years. Jeb Rowley, LEPC Chairman, asked the Board to approve a \$25,000.00 quote for the siren and related equipment. The remaining \$4,000.00 of the grant will be used by LEPC for operating expenses (meetings, travel, training).

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve purchase of the outdoor mass community notification system from CTC Electric Contracting, for an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00

utilizing FY 2022 SERC OPTE Grant funds budgeted for capital outlay (010-039-55010-000) in the LEPC budget. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Update: Public Works Director Jeb Rowley reported on Public Works projects and activities.

Tree Trimming: Fred's Tree Service has been in Eureka pruning and trimming trees in several areas and along streets, including the Pocket Park in Eureka and the Eureka Fairgrounds.

Spring Street Ditch: A lot of cleanup has been done on the Spring Street Ditch. The mastication work is done, and an industrial vacuum truck has been scheduled to clean storm drains in the ditch and around town.

Building Maintenance: Roe Paint has done a lot of resurfacing work and painting on the Courthouse, Opera House, and Sentinel Museum, and will return the next week to finish up.

Eureka Airport: Lumos & Associates has completed topographical and cultural research surveys at the Airport, which are required before proceeding with installation of the windsocks and construction of the snow plow building. Lumos is now working on design plans, the next phase for these projects.

Radio Update: The migration to the new digital radio system has been accomplished. Microwave transmission was converted to LTE at the Mount Tenabo and Mary's Mountain repeater sites. Signals in northern Eureka County are now received at the Crescent Valley substation and broadcast via LP (low-power) to Eureka dispatch. Broadcast data is being collected for a few weeks to indicate where adjustments need to be made in order to optimize radio transmission throughout the County, particularly in some of the trouble spots up north.

ISO Review: The five-year ISO review will be conducted on August 25th. Staff has been busy completing the required documentation for the inspection, which includes risk assessments, infrastructure specifications, water flow data, communication capabilities, etc.

Utilities: Crews have been working to collect water samples for the annual water quality reports (Consumer Confidence Reports) required by the EPA on municipal water systems.

Monthly meter readings will resume the following week. Crews have had to address several water issues, which include underground water leaks at County buildings and repairs to a fire hydrant in Crescent Valley that was struck by a vehicle.

Road Maintenance: Public Works has asked Lumos & Associates to incorporate rights-of-way dedications, abandonments, and easements into the scope of work for the future street maintenance project. Simultaneously, work is being done on design plans and the CMAR (Construction Manager at Risk) selection process.

COVID Vaccines: Mr. Rowley continues working to ensure the County has a sufficient supply of COVID vaccines and testing kits. He coordinates closely with the Superintendent because of the School District's high demand for rapid tests. He noted that the 87 tests done for student athletes the previous week only included high school students. Now that sports have commenced for junior high, 50 more student athletes will require weekly testing.

Mr. Rowley received a report that Pfizer and Moderna booster shots will be available after September 20th. Under EUA (emergency use authorization), the Pfizer vaccine can be administered to those 12 years of age and older. EMS continues offering vaccines each week, usually on Wednesday, and has supplies of the Moderna and Janssen vaccines.

Water Service: Public Works received two water service applications and Mr. Rowley recommended approval, stating that both water systems have the capacity to serve additional customers.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the application for a 3/4-inch residential water service in Crescent Valley for APN 002-049-01; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the application for a 3/4-inch commercial water service in the Town of Eureka for APN 001-104-01; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

FBO Statement of Qualifications: Mr. Rowley explained that a Request for Qualifications for a Fixed Base Operator (FBO) was advertised for 30 days, with one response received from Joe & Lauren Luby of Eureka.

A review panel was established to review the responses and consisted of Mike Coster, a Municipal Court Judge and former airport manager from Ely; Marty Plaskett, local hay producer and pilot; Joyce Jeppesen; and Jeb Rowley. Mr. Rowley stated that the panel appreciated the response from Mr. & Mrs. Luby but determined that, although the proposal provided ideas for future development and events, it was non-responsive and unspecific to the core and essential functions for services identified and advertised in the Request for Qualifications. The proposal did not address day-to-day duties and requirements for an FBO. The panel unanimously agreed to request additional advertising time, with no changes to the RFQ other than to extend the deadline.

Mr. Rowley explained that the Lubys can leave their original proposal as is, to be reviewed along with other responses, if any, after the extended advertising period; or the Lubys may revise the proposal and resubmit it.

Joe & Lauren Luby were in attendance and Mr. Luby asked what the panel was looking for in relation to the day-to-day duties. He said that, if the contract is awarded to an independent contractor, the County cannot dictate how the airport duties are carried out, and the County cannot determine what tasks may or may not be assigned to an employee of the independent contractor. Mr. Luby stated that all proposals in a sealed bid process must be opened at the same time, and he questioned whether protocol was being followed since his proposal has been opened.

Chairman Goicoechea stated the panel did not deny the Luby's proposal, but was simply recommending that the advertising time be extended. He reiterated that the proposal can stand as is, or be withdrawn, modified, and resubmitted to the review panel.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the review panel's recommendation to extend the advertisement period for the Request for Qualifications for a Fixed Base Operator at the Eureka Airport. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Rowley said the review panel recommended extending the advertising time by 45 days, beginning September 1st. This will allow time to contact newspapers and resubmit the RFQ for publication. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to extend the advertising time for seeking Statements of Qualifications for a Fixed Base Operator independent contractor for the period of September 1st through October 13th. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Emergency Services MOU: County staff has been working with Nevada Gold Mines to create a mutual aid environment for emergency services on or near Nevada Gold Mines' properties (Cortez Mine and Goldrush Project), and all parties are now satisfied with the agreement. Nevada Gold Mines signed the original and it has been forwarded by mail.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Eureka County and Nevada Gold Mines, LLC, for mutual aid in provision of emergency services and hazardous incident response and authorized the Chairman to sign it outside of the meeting. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Vehicle Purchase: Mr. Rowley said Public Works has identified 16 vehicles that are 10 years or older with odometers registering over 120,000 miles. Seven of those exceed 20 years. Senior Mechanic David Jones has helped develop a plan to retire and declare surplus property at least two more vehicles that won't be replaced in this budget year. During the pandemic, many manufacturers have slowed production, or even halted fleet production altogether. Chevrolet has just resumed taking orders and Mr. Rowley did not want to waste the opportunity to get a slot in

the production line. He requested a total of five replacement vehicles. These purchases will be made utilizing the State of Nevada Fleet Vehicle Purchasing Agreement #99SWC-S1495.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve purchase of two (2) new 2022 Chevrolet Silverado 3500 standard cab and chassis pickups with Royal bodies from Champion Chevrolet, for a not to exceed amount of \$90,630.50, utilizing funds budgeted for capital outlay in the Eureka Town Water budget (045-177-55010-000) and in the Capital Projects budget (042-140-55010-000). Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to authorize purchase of three (3) new 2022 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 cab and chassis from Champion Chevrolet, for a not to exceed amount of \$92,790.75 utilizing funds budgeted for capital outlay in the Road Department budget (020-106-55010-000). Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

The agenda included purchase of flatbeds and fuel transfer tanks for the three Silverado 2500 pickups, but this was tabled to the next meeting so the vendor, who will supply the after-market beds and tanks, can be identified on the agenda.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN

Update on Yucca Mountain Project: Nuclear Waste Advisor Abby Johnson reported current activities related to the Yucca Mountain Project. She said the focus remains on consent-based siting for interim storage of nuclear waste. The Department of Energy received \$27.5 million for Fiscal Year 2021, none of which was for Yucca Mountain, other than testing of the high-tech rail cars designed to transport spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. Ms. Johnson said the Governors of Texas and New Mexico (where private interim storage is being developed) are voicing concerns. Due to the failure of Congress to fund Yucca Mountain in recent years, they are beginning to realize that the private fuel storage won't be interim storage as it has been touted, but will end up being indefinite parking spots for the waste.

With cessation of Yucca Mountain funding to the AULGs (affected units of local government) for several years now, the nuclear waste advisor contract with Ms. Johnson is coming to an end. She is working on transitioning the Yucca Mountain website from a third party web server to County control. She is sorting documents and data to provide all necessary files to Public Works. For future communications, she has exchanged contact information for Mr. Rowley and Dr. Fred Dilger, Nevada's Executive Director for the Agency for Nuclear Projects.

PLAIN TALK NEWSLETTER

Content for Next Edition: Abby Johnson, editor for the *Plain Talk* newsletter, discussed potential articles and calendar of events for the next issue of *Plain Talk*. Ms. Johnson stated she would like to get the next edition to Public Works by September 20th or 21st to allow for printing and mailing by October 1st.

Ms. Johnson noted this may be her last appearance before the Board as a consultant, and she wanted to thank the current Board and staff, as well as previous Boards and staff, stating it has been an honor to represent Eureka County.

The Board thanked Ms. Johnson for the hard work she has done related to Yucca Mountain and consulting on a myriad of other issues for many years with Eureka County. Chairman Goicoechea thanked her for keeping him grounded on the trips to Washington DC, saying she will be missed around Eureka County.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from: Nancy Minoletti; District Attorney Ted Beutel; Eureka County Juvenile Probation; Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Dept.; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board (5); Eureka Television District; Central Nevada Regional Water Authority; UNR Victims of Crime Treatment Center; Nevada Dept. of Agriculture; Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection (2); US Dept.

of the Interior-BLM; National Assoc. of Counties (multiple); Governing E-news (multiple); and America First Policy Institute (multiple).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments. To address the item brought up in the first public comment of the morning, the Chairman stated that he deliberately blocked the item in question from being placed on the Board’s agenda. The item raises a lot of questions and concerns, which have not been answered, and that is why it has never appeared on a published agenda of the Board.

There were no further public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Approved by vote of the Board this 6th day of October, 2021.

/s/ J.J. Goicoechea, DVM
J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman

I, Jackie Berg, Commissioner Administrative Assistant, attest that these are a true, correct, and duly approved minutes of the August 20, 2021, meeting of the Board of Eureka County Commissioners.

/s/ Jackie Berg
Jackie Berg, Commissioner Administrative Asst.

I, Lisa Hoehne, Clerk Recorder of Eureka County, acknowledge and accept the attached minutes as approved by the Board of Eureka County Commissioners and attested to by the Commissioner Administrative Assistant.

/s/ Lisa Hoehne
Lisa Hoehne, Clerk