

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Special Pre-Budget Meeting
November 19, 2009

STATE OF NEVADA)
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COUNTY OF EUREKA)

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met for a special meeting on November 19, 2009. Present were Chairman Jim Ithurrealde, Vice Chair Leonard Fiorenzi, Member Mike Page, and Clerk & Treasurer Jackie Berg. The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. The interactive video conference system was connected and utilized between Crescent Valley and Eureka during the entire meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Ithurrealde opened the floor to public comment. Dr. Glenn Waite said he had comments that were relevant to the budget, and read a statement into the record, as follows:
“Commissioners, The following comments are my own and should not be construed to be those of another. I’m no longer employed by Nevada Health Centers but I’m still a resident here in Eureka County. The county has sufficient money to provide to provide its residents with quality medical services which comply with Nevada Revised Statutes and Nevada Administrative Code. This means hiring personnel who have valid licenses to practice, and nurses that have valid licenses and also properly trained medical assistants, if they comply with the law in Nevada. On page 4 of the contract between the county and Nevada Health Centers, it states that it is agreed by both parties that Nevada Health Centers providers will assist in the development and use of appropriate clinical protocols for the supervision of non-physician providers as specified in the Nevada Revised Statutes and Nevada Administrative Code. During the time I was employed by Nevada Health Centers, I tried to develop clinical protocols at the Eureka Medical Clinic for the supervision of non-physician providers which complies with the Nevada Revised Statutes and Nevada Administrative Code. However, Nevada Health Centers refused to change its policies in order to be in compliance wit/ the Nevada Revised Statutes and the Nevada Administrative Code. Therefore, I had to choose to either follow the Nevada Health Centers policies and violate the Nevada Revised Statutes and the Nevada Administrative Code or comply with the Nevada Revised Statutes and the Nevada Administrative Code and violate Nevada Health Centers policies. I chose to violate Nevada Health Centers policies and to comply with the Nevada Revised Statutes and the Nevada Administrative Code. I had to do this to keep my medical license. Because I chose this route, Nevada Health Centers terminated my employment contract for cause. Nevada Health Centers policies allow a non-licensed clinical coordinator, which is the same as an office manager to supervise a licensed physician and dictate to him or her how to practice medicine. This is a non-licensed person that does not have a license to practice medicine; this is a violation of Nevada law. The length of time a physician chooses to spend with his or her patients is an integral part of the practice of medicine, and others that are not licensed cannot dictate to a doctor how long he chooses, in his professional training and also experience, how long to spend with patients. Nevada Health Centers policies allow a nurse practitioner to supervise a medical assistant; this is a violation of Nevada law. They are trying to replace me with a nurse practitioner. If one of the, if the Physician’s Assistant goes off to Austin and left here with a nurse practitioner supervising medical assistants, that is a violation of Nevada law. Nevada Health Centers

policies allow medical assistants to provide nursing services without requiring them to be licensed by the Nevada State Board of Nursing; this is a violation of Nevada law. County funds should not be used to promote illegal activities. Since these issues are not scheduled for action at this meeting, I suggest that they should be placed on the agenda for a future Board of Commissioners meeting. Thank you."

Chairman Ithurralde asked for any other public comment and there was none.

FISCAL YEAR 2009 UPDATE

Mr. Rebaleati reported that the auditors with Kafoury, Armstrong, and Company had just completed the two week on-site audit and had returned to Elko where they will compile and finalize the information to be included in the Eureka County Comprehensive Annual Fiscal Report, which should be ready in December. Mr. Rebaleati provided the Board with a computer printout of actual revenues and expenditures for Fiscal Year 2009, and reviewed the report in detail. He pointed out that the revenue figures are slightly higher due to the projected net proceeds payments that were paid in 2009 (that would normally have been received in 2010). General government expenses were slightly higher due to some of the large construction projects, particularly the Eureka Volunteer Fire Station. The overall fund balances at fiscal year end (June 30, 2009) total over \$57 million.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Mr. Rebaleati reviewed the five-year Capital Improvement Plan for the Board. Chairman Ithurralde noted that all capital improvement projects and their scheduled start dates are at the discretion of the Board of County Commissioners, and the plan is reviewed and revised each year. Just because a project appears on the plan, doesn't guarantee it will actually be completed, and projects are often moved from year to year as finances dictate.

Large capital improvement items that were discussed include: road and street maintenance, equipment and vehicle replacement; emergency and fire equipment; building repairs and remodels; spring refurbishment; water supply and storage improvements; Main Street water and sewer line replacement; Crescent Valley arsenic treatment plant; Devil's Gate GID water improvements; flood abatement; landfill improvements; radio repeater upgrades; and Television District equipment and improvements. If the population increases the sewer pond expansion and landfill expansion will also become priorities.

Arlene DePaoli and Maxine Rebaleati were in attendance regarding a letter they submitted, along with several other citizens, requesting more street lighting on Main Street in Eureka. Chairman Ithurralde acknowledged their presence and informed them that the street light issue will definitely be considered during the upcoming budget meetings.

Jim Evans, Community Development Coordinator, interjected that the County is in the preliminary phase of looking into some climate station sites (snotel sites) and this will likely be added to the five-year Capital Improvement Plan.

Mr. Rebaleati stated many of the larger projects are pre-funded with monies designated and set aside each budget year. He concluded by stating this preliminary plan is a good starting point for the Commissioners and departments heads when negotiating the Fiscal Year 2010 budgets.

SET DATE & TIME OF FUTURE BUDGET MEETING(S)

Chairman Ithurralde stated that the budget meetings for Fiscal Year 2009 worked well, where several shorter meetings were planned instead of all day marathon meetings. He asked Mr. Rebaleati to select some dates for a budget meeting schedule and to present it to the Board at the December 7th meeting.

RESOLUTION REGARDING TITLING / REGISTRATION OF COUNTY VEHICLES

Mr. Rebaleati stated he placed this on the agenda to provide a consistent process for all departments to follow when titling and licensing County vehicles and equipment. The Treasurer's office, with assistance from the Recorder's office and the Assessor's office has completed an extensive audit of County vehicles and equipment related to titles, insurance, etc. Having this resolution in place will provide direction to the different departments so that titling and licensing is handled properly in the future.

The Board members discussed the resolution and Commissioner Fiorenzi felt the language might be confusing regarding who has the authority to purchase vehicles. Chairman Ithurralde requested that Mr. Rebaleati clarify the language in the resolution and present it for approval at a future meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Ithurralde opened the floor to public comment. There were no comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Page motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:09 p.m.; Commissioner Fiorenzi seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Approved this 7th day of December, 2009.

/s/ J.P. Ithurralde

J.P. Ithurralde, Chairman

Attest: /s/ Jackie Berg

Jackie Berg, Clerk