

**EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**August 5, 2022**

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 5, 2022. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea, Commissioner Rich McKay, District Attorney Ted Beutel, and Administrative Assistant Jackie Berg. Vice Chairman Michael Sharkozy was absent. 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 between Crescent Valley and Eureka for the entire meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman Goicoechea noted that the Sheriff's agenda items would be taken early to accommodate out-of-state travel to attend to a family emergency. Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the agenda with that change; Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion; motion carried 2-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments.

Comment on Vacant Position: Sheriff Jesse Watts commented on the request from Public Works to fill the vacant position of Assistant Public Works Director. He stated that earlier in the year he was told he could not fill a Lieutenant position because it was not budgeted. Since the job description for Assistant Public Works Director has been changed from Administration to Project Manager, he felt it should be denied as a non-budgeted position.

Agenda Request: Undersheriff Tyler Thomas requested that the next agenda include an item for the Board to reconsider the September 1<sup>st</sup> deadline restricting use of patrol vehicles to commute outside of Eureka County. Chairman Goicoechea reminded the Undersheriff that State law and County Code only permit the Board to reconsider, and potentially overturn, an action item at the very next meeting. The Undersheriff said he had misunderstood that point, and asked that the Board consider an alternate solution if housing options aren't forthcoming.

Striping on Highway 50: Chairman Goicoechea spoke with the Deputy Director at the Department of Transportation about the need for striping on US Highway 50 following recent maintenance work. The Deputy Director explained that equipment broke down shortly after striping began and parts have been on order. He understood the safety ramifications, but explained that crews are working at 50% capacity and it is extremely challenging to fill vacant positions when the State does not offer a competitive wage.

**SHERIFF**

Travel for Vehicle Assessment: Sheriff Watts reported that he and Senior Mechanic David Jones traveled to Salt Lake City on August 4<sup>th</sup> to assess used vehicles (previously equipped and put into service by another law enforcement agency). They examined six vehicles (ten more were pending delivery) and found them to be immaculate, mechanically sound, and fully equipped. The vehicles were low mileage and prices ranged from \$46,000.00 to \$51,000.00. Sheriff Watts said a comparable new vehicle will cost \$54,000.00 unequipped. He will work with Public Works to obtain comparable quotes and seek approval to purchase some of these vehicles during the August 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **COMPTROLLER**

**Payment of Expenditures:** Expenditures were presented for approval by Comptroller Kim Todd. Chairman Goicoechea motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$417,908.01 for accounts payable, \$374,049.96 for payroll and benefit related expenses (including employee paid deductions), \$77,064.19 for a pass-through to the Nevada State Controller (\$67,667.64 in school taxes and \$9,396.55 in general taxes), \$68,530.00 for a pass-through to the Nevada Division of Minerals, \$745.05 for a pass-through to the Nevada Department of Taxation, \$698.36 for a pass-through for the N1 Grazing Board, and \$210.55 for a pass-through to the Washoe County Crime Lab for a grand total of \$939,206.12. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

**Fund Balance Report:** The Board reviewed the current fund balance report.

## **COMMISSIONERS**

**Request for ARPA Funds:** The State of Nevada has approximately \$1.2 billion in federal funding as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) intended to stabilize small businesses in the State. US Treasury guidance for ARPA defines small businesses as those with no more than 500 employees. The Nevada Cattlemen's Association and Nevada Farm Bureau have submitted proposals to the Governor on behalf of the livestock industry.

Chairman Goicoechea is preparing a letter proposing a program that would help mitigate the hardship producers are facing due to ongoing drought and lack of forage. The program, to be administered by the Nevada Department of Agriculture, would reimburse producers \$100.00 per head, based on annual Livestock Declaration & Assessment ("Head Tax") reports. The reimbursement would offset costs related to transporting livestock to forage, or costs for hay and freight incurred to purchase supplemental feed.

An injection of funds, particularly into rural livestock operations, can help keep these small businesses whole by averting loss of inventory through death or forced sale. This, in turn, will help protect the economy of our State and the rural communities that rely on the livestock industry.

Commissioner McKay motioned to send a letter to Governor Sisolak seeking his support of small business in rural Nevada by allocating American Rescue Plan Act funding to the livestock industry to mitigate hardships due to continued severe drought and lack of available forage. Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

**Request for Variance:** Lee Raine was in attendance to request a variance for Lot 5 in the Eureka Canyon Subdivision. The Development Agreement requires that permanent structures be set back 20 feet from the front and rear property lines. The home Ms. Raine is purchasing will extend eight feet towards the rear of the lot, leaving a setback of 12 feet.

The Board discussed potential options with staff. The County previously granted a setback variance, but Public Works Director Jeb Rowley stated this lot was different because of the drainage channel at the rear of the lot. The property immediately adjacent (the Raine's Market lot) has a steep slope and the resulting runoff and erosion will require upkeep of the drainage ditch. An adequate setback is needed to allow equipment access for ditch maintenance or utility repairs.

After careful consideration and in agreement with Ms. Raine, Chairman Goicoechea motioned to grant a variance to Section 6(e) of the Development Agreement to allow for a 17 feet setback from the east boundary (front) and a 15 feet setback from the west boundary (back) for Lot 5 in the Eureka Canyon Subdivision. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

**RFP Extension – Crescent Valley Clinic:** Commissioner McKay serves as liaison to the Medical Clinics Advisory Committee and explained that, for the past 60 days, the committee has advertised a Request for Proposals seeking a qualified individual or organization to

provide medical services at the Crescent Valley Clinic. The committee met recently and, based on input from its members as well as some northern residents, would like to advertise another 60 days.

Chairman Goicoechea motioned to authorize the Medical Clinics Advisory Committee to extend, by 60 days, the posting, advertising, and distribution of a Request for Proposals seeking a medical provider for the Crescent Valley Clinic. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

## **IT DEPARTMENT**

IT Update: IT Director Misty Rowley reported on IT projects and activities. Recent duties included: setting up seven new workstations; continuing to learn the Apple Business Manager program; migration of the domain controller at the Sheriff's Office; upgrading the network equipment operating system; and obtaining quotes and seeking special funding for indoor cellular signal boosters for the Courthouse, Administrative Facility, and Road Shop.

Crescent Valley Broadband Projects: Ms. Rowley spoke with Jojo Myers Campos, Broadband Business Development Director for Commnet Broadband and the goal for completion of the fiber project for the Crescent Valley Elementary School is June 2023. Once complete, the County can begin its project to extend fiber connectivity to the Crescent Valley Town Center.

Broadband Grant Project: Ms. Rowley met with Lumos & Associates, Quest Technology Management, Syber Networks, and contracted grant writer Debbie Gordon to formulate next steps in ongoing efforts related to the broadband grant application.

Lumos & Associates – Grant Assistance: Jonathan Lesperance reviewed Lumos & Associate's proposal for grant application assistance, project management, and NEPA document coordination. The proposal outlines two primary tasks. Task 1, which is contingent on final engineering design of the broadband system, involves NEPA documentation. Lumos will subcontract with technical experts and consultants to complete the cultural, historical, and biological resource studies and reports needed to complete the Environmental Assessment. Task 2 provides project management and technical assistance, as needed, for the entire grant application process and is comprised of many highly technical components.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the proposal from Lumos & Associates for grant application assistance, project management, and NEPA document coordination related to the broadband grant, for an amount not to exceed \$150,000.00. Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Networking Equipment: Ms. Rowley recommended having an inventory of certain network equipment due to long lead times that can impact delivery.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve Quest Quote #22-07-19 3560CX for purchase of networking equipment in an amount not to exceed \$7,136.04 utilizing monies budgeted for capital outlay (010-018-55010-000) in the Technology Support budget. Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Conduit Purchase & Installation: Ms. Rowley explained that the attic at the Administrative Facility (Annex) has a series of firewalls, and conduit will be necessary when cable is reinstalled in the facility.

Chairman Goicoechea motioned to approve Quote #016273 (Version 1) from Quest Technology Management for the purchase and installation of conduit at the Administrative Facility/Annex for a not to exceed amount of \$24,007.47 (\$20,876.06 with 15% contingency) utilizing monies budgeted for capital outlay (010-018-55010-000) in the Technology Support budget. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Network Equipment Rack: Commissioner McKay motioned to approve Quote #016459 (Version 1) from Quest Technology Management for purchase and installation of a networking

equipment rack for a not to exceed amount of \$6,038.11 (\$5,031.76 plus 20% contingency) utilizing monies budgeted for capital outlay (010-018-55010-000) in the Technology Support budget. Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

## **SENIOR CENTERS**

Update Report: Senior Center Program Director Millie Oram reported on activities at the Eureka Senior Center and Fannie Komp Senior Center for July. Eureka served 747 meals and Crescent Valley served 849 meals for the month. A total of \$2,893.50 was deposited for July, and an additional \$7,691.22 was received and deposited, but will be credited to June.

The first senior trip in two years, involving a visit to Carson City and Virginia City, took place the last weekend of July.

Transportation Grant: Commissioner McKay motioned to ratify Independent Living Grant #07-000-10-LX-23 from Nevada Aging & Disability Services Division in the amount of \$29,577.00 with a match of \$4,437.00. Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

## **ELKO-LANDER-EUREKA COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM**

Library Rebranding & Other Updates: Library Director Kassie Antonucci was in attendance to provide a detailed update on the Library System. First, she noted that during the previous year Lander County voted to resume certain local services, including library services, and are no longer under contract for library services.

Ms. Antonucci said a lot of lessons were learned in navigating the pandemic. With this year being Elko Library's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and wanting to leverage those lessons learned, it seemed the perfect time to rebrand the library and evaluate services. A consultant team was hired to work with staff and the communities to launch a 2-to-3-year rebranding journey.

The Director said the consultants shared that "shhh" is a four-letter word and those library days are over. Instead, focus has shifted to a new concept of taking ownership of your community library, or – as it has been rebranded – "Mybrary." She described in detail how Mybrary is a place of accomplishment, learning, a place to be challenged and make new friends. It is a myriad of conventional and unconventional resources, and will offer expanding tools and opportunities for education.

A kickoff celebration is scheduled at the Elko Library on August 9<sup>th</sup> and parties will be scheduled at each branch library. Eureka's party is scheduled from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. on August 20<sup>th</sup>, and Crescent Valley's part is scheduled that same day from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

In closing, Ms. Antonucci read a portion of the Mybrary impact statement, *"We're here for you. You can absolutely count on us to be trusted listeners, enthusiastic collaborators, and tireless partners in the search for knowledge. Welcome to Mybrary, your community library, where ideas and opinions and facts and fiction are not just collected, they're explored, celebrated, challenged, and respected."*

## **ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Report on Activities: Ray Hodson, Assistant Public Works Director, reported on Road Department activities. The Tonkin Road was bladed and that blade is now working on the JD Ranch Road. In Diamond Valley, roads from Devil's Gate to 6<sup>th</sup> Street were done, with that blade continuing to work north. The contract blade (under the agreement with McEwen Mining) and a water truck are working daily on the 3 Bars Road.

One of Eureka's blades is currently working in Crescent Valley to address rocks migrating to the surface on the reworked and reshaped roads. Crews are very responsive when a problem is reported, and Mr. Hodson is inspecting those roads once or twice a week.

Mr. Hodson and Lester Porter met with Lumos & Associates and representatives of Sierra Nevada Construction to formulate a plan for testing the Crescent Valley roads – potholing and coring – to determine what base the contractor will be working with.

The northern crew hauled material to mend some bad spots and touch up Willow Corral Pass. The crew is now blading Geothermal Road and has enlisted a water truck to finish work on Crescent Valley roads.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

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

Institutional Control Plan: As part of ongoing soils management under the Institutional Control Plan, Mr. Rowley toured the townsite of Eureka with a representative from Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.

Transportation Advisor: Mr. Rowley attended a stakeholder meeting and received a report from consultant, Richard Moore, PE, who advises the County on nuclear waste transportation issues and notifies when shipments of radiological material are scheduled for transport through Eureka County.

Building Assessments: Walk-throughs of the Eureka Library and the Eureka Justice Facility (Sheriff's Office) are scheduled on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> respectively. Walk-through of the Library will determine what modifications are needed as Mt. Wheeler Power upgrades to pad-mounted transformers for electrical service to the Courthouse, Senior Center, and Library.

Walk-through of the Justice Facility will kickoff the facility needs assessment for that building, as approved on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

Vehicle Assessments: As the Sheriff reported earlier, the Senior Mechanic traveled with Sheriff Watts to Salt Lake City to assess used vehicles as potential patrol vehicles. Public Works will solicit the necessary quotes for cost comparisons.

Communication Towers: Public Works continues working with Western States Enterprises to map components on all communication towers. They will work with the technician for the Television District to ensure those are included as well. Tower work included antenna replacement on Mary's Mountain (damaged from ice load), and upcoming camera replacement on Prospect Peak. An upgrade is planned for the tower on Bald Mountain to allow direct communication with dispatch. Completion is dependent on equipment delivery, but should be done by the end of October.

Courthouse HVAC: The street directly behind the Courthouse has been blocked off and excavated to allow for installation of electrical conduit needed to support the new HVAC. Crews have begun dismantling the boiler.

Annual Water Sampling: The annual water sampling is slated for August and the State has an aggressive schedule for the County's water systems. Due to the 24-hour deadline for testing, samples will be transported directly to the labs in Reno. This will keep the technicians busy for a couple of weeks traveling from Eureka, Diamond Valley, and Crescent Valley.

Devil's Gate Mainline Extension: About 1200 feet of mainline has been installed on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and is ready to tie into El Centro. Crews will be called away a couple of days to assist with preparations for the County Fair.

Water System Statistics – Frontier Street Well: Mr. Rowley reported on the Frontier Street well, which serves Devil's Gate Districts 1&2. The well is running at about 55% capacity, which is up 20% from a few years ago. The well is 347 feet deep, with 87 feet of water over the pump. The pump is currently set about 15 feet from the bottom, so there is no capacity to drop the pump further. The rate of drawdown has increased over the last two years, with the water level declining 34 feet in that two-year period.

Water System Statistics – Eureka Town Wells: The water demand for Eureka Town is shared equally by Wells 1&2. Eureka Town has not seen the increase in demand that the Frontier Street Well has. Despite fairly static consumer demand, the water level in Well 1 has declined by 28 feet over the last two years, leaving a water level of 34 feet (over the pump bowl assembly). Mr. Rowley reported that Well 1 is experiencing visible air entrainment. A management plan is in place for the town wells, but issues with Well 1 need to be addressed.

More information is needed to determine the best course of action for Well 1. Mr. Rowley said the first option to consider would be installation of a variable frequency drive (VFD), which would lower and control the pumping output. Well 2 has a VFD, and is not showing the level of drawdown experienced by Well 1.

Third Street Construction Well: Mr. Rowley would like to further evaluate usage of construction water from the Third Street Well, which has increased 70% in two years (from 280,000 gallons to over a million gallons this past year). The Third Street Well doesn't have a direct impact on the municipal water systems, but certainly fits into the overall trend of declining groundwater levels.

Chairman Goicoechea commented that people who question the County's focus on finding a municipal water source outside of the Diamond Valley Basin need to be aware of and consider these statistics. Commissioner McKay agreed, stating he gets asked the same questions as the Chairman. He suggested that the County consider making a public announcement.

Road & Utility Improvement Project: Jonathan Lesperance provided an update on the County-wide road and utility project. Lumos and Public Works staff have been coordinating with Sierra Nevada Construction (SNC), the Construction Manager At Risk (CMAR), on a biweekly basis and have been focusing on Crescent Valley. The team is working on 60% design of road and utility improvements within the townsite.

Lumos has been coordinating with the FAA and an Airline Dispatch Office out of Phoenix to work on planning and a scope of work for the Airport improvements. Mr. Lesperance is pleased with the responsiveness of the planner out of the Phoenix office.

Vehicle Donation: Mr. Rowley recommended supporting Churchill County in its Public Health Program efforts in and for Eureka County, by donating a vehicle that was declared surplus on June 6<sup>th</sup>. The ability to donate surplus property to another governmental entity is outlined in Eureka County Code, Title 3, Chapter 20, Section .130.

Chairman Goicoechea motioned to adopt the resolution providing for donation of the surplus 2004 Chevrolet Tahoe (VIN: 1GKEK13V24J301130) to Churchill County for use in public health efforts. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

*Eureka County, Nevada*

*August 5, 2022*

**RESOLUTION**

**OF THE BOARD OF EUREKA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
PROVIDING FOR THE DONATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY,  
ONE (1) 2004 CHEVROLET YUKON, TO CHURCHILL COUNTY, NEVADA**

WHEREAS, Eureka County has determined that its 2004 Chevrolet Yukon (VIN:1GKEK13V24J301130) is no longer of any value to the County, does not serve a useful function, and is not required for the effective continued operation of Eureka County Public Works; and

WHEREAS, for these reasons, which are supported by continuous non-use, upkeep, and absence of expected use in the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, Churchill County has expressed great interest in obtaining the 2004 Chevrolet Yukon; has established a need; has confirmed the purpose for use of the vehicle; and has demonstrated the ability to operate, maintain, store, and provide funding to ensure effective use of the Chevrolet Yukon; and

WHEREAS, Eureka County believes that donating the 2004 Chevrolet Yukon to Churchill County will provide the highest benefit to the inhabitants of Eureka County for the following reasons:

- ◆ Churchill County is administering a community health program with in Eureka County;
- ◆ Churchill County has a need for the vehicle to travel between Eureka and Crescent Valley to provide for the timely administration of community health programs, inclusive of biologic medicines, immunizations, and testing for the COVID endemic, and;
- ◆ Churchill County has a close working relationship with the rural health care community in Eureka County;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Eureka County Code, Title 3, Chapter 20, Section .130, and in accordance with NRS 244.1505, the Board of Eureka County Commissioners does hereby affirm that during its regular meeting on June 6, 2022, action was taken to declare the 2004 Chevrolet Yukon surplus property. Furthermore, the Board of Eureka County Commissioners hereby resolves to donate said vehicle to Churchill County, a governmental entity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that officials of Eureka County are hereby authorized to complete all steps necessary for this transaction, including signing the Certificate of Title for transfer of the 2004 Chevrolet Yukon (VIN: 1GKEK13V24J301130) to Churchill County.

ADOPTED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2022.

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ J.J. Goicoechea

J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman

/s/ Michael Sharkozy

Michael Sharkozy, Vice Chairman

/s/ Rich McKay

Rich McKay, Member

Attest: /s/ Kathy Bowling

Kathy Bowling, County Clerk

Updated Job Description – Assistant Public Works Director: Mr. Rowley explained that the Administrative Assistant Public Works Director position was created in 2019, but the needs of the department have changed for several reasons, including the size and number of upcoming projects, supply chain challenges, and the need to investigate and navigate the numerous federal funding opportunities.

Comptroller Kim Todd concurred that the position is not new, but has been amended to meet the current needs of the department, which is commonly done to address evolving job duties. There are no proposed changes to the job class, salary range, or budget for this position.

Chairman Goicoechea motioned to update the Assistant Public Works Director-Administration job description to Assistant Public Works Director-Project Manager. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Hiring Freeze Waiver Justification – Assistant Public Works Director: Chairman Goicoechea motioned to waive the hiring freeze and authorize Public Works to fill the position

of Assistant Director-Project Manager. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Quest Quotes: Mr. Rowley explained that quotes were obtained from Quest for installation of security cameras (five interior and five exterior) at the Crescent Valley Substation, installation of keyless door locks on interior and exterior doors at the Substation, and installation of security cameras at the Crescent Valley Park.

CCTV System for Crescent Valley Substation: Commissioner McKay motioned to approve Quote #0146424 (Version 4) from Quest Technology Management to install a CCTV (closed-circuit television) system at the Crescent Valley Substation, in an amount not to exceed \$24,374.97, utilizing funds budgeted for capital outlay (010-034-55010-010) in the Sheriff's budget. Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Images from the cameras will be transmitted to and are accessible from the cloud.

Substation Keyless Door Locks: Commissioner McKay motioned to approve Quote #0016293 (Version 1) from Quest Technology Management to install keyless door locks at the Crescent Valley Substation, in an amount not to exceed \$24,304.51, utilizing \$3,679.48 in funds budgeted for capital outlay (010-028-55010-000) in the Justice Court budget and \$20,625.03 in funds budgeted for capital outlay (010-034-55010-010) in the Sheriff's budget. Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Security Cameras for Crescent Valley Park: Chairman Goicoechea motioned to approve Quote #0016334 (Version 1) from Quest Technology Management to purchase and install cameras at the Crescent Valley Park, in an amount not to exceed \$7,262.16, (\$6,051.80 plus 20% contingency for incidentals and shipping), utilizing funds budgeted for capital outlay (010-074-55010-010) in the Public Parks budget. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Images from the park cameras can be stored for up to 30 days.

Lumos & Associates Proposal – Kobeh Valley Well & Transmission Main PER: Mr. Lesperance reviewed the proposal for completing a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for the Kobeh Valley Well & Transmission Main. The proposal anticipates a 30-week timeline, needed for proper analysis, creation of the scope of work, and for coordination between Public Works and Natural Resources to determine alignments, potential well fields, etc. The report will be done in accordance with US Department of Agriculture requirements to establish eligibility for receiving principal forgiveness through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, including principal forgiveness of costs for writing the PER.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the proposal from Lumos & Associates for the Kobeh Valley Well & Transmission Main Preliminary Engineering Report, in an amount not to exceed \$92,500.00, utilizing funds budgeted for capital outlay and appropriated for the Kobeh Valley Test Well (125-247-55010-745) in the Water Mitigation Fund. Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

MetroQuip Inc. Quote for Street Sweeper: Mr. Rowley said the Road Department has been using the same street sweeper for 20 years, which was circa 1980 and purchased used by the County. He explained that it is virtually unusable and completely unreliable. With the County investing several million dollars in streets and utilities over the next few years, he felt it was timely to buy a machine that would help with proper maintenance of the County's infrastructure.

Chairman Goicoechea and Commissioner McKay had several questions for Mr. Rowley and Assistant Director Ray Hodson. Citing the high cost of procuring this machine, they wanted to ensure that the need was truly there and that this was a timely purchase.

Mr. Hodson emphatically assured them that it was time to make this investment. Mr. Hodson and Mr. Rowley also pointed out that the new sweeper will pick up the trash and material rather than simply sweeping it to the side of the road.



Chairman Goicoechea motioned to approve the quote from MetroQuip, Inc., for a 2023 Elgin Broom Bear Sweeper, in an amount not to exceed \$321,055.45, utilizing funds budgeted for capital outlay (020-106-55010-000) in the Road Department budget. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Keypad Lock – Annex NOC Room: Commissioner McKay motioned to approve Quote #016274 (Version 1) from Quest Technology Management for purchase and installation of a keypad lock for the Administrative Facility/Annex NOC (network operations center) room for a not to exceed amount of \$6,187.00 (\$5,155.41 plus 20% contingency) utilizing monies budgeted for capital outlay (010-018-55010-000) in the Technology Support budget. Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Keypad Lock – Courthouse Circuit Room: Chairman Goicoechea motioned to approve Quote #016277 (Version 1) for purchase and installation of a keypad lock for the Courthouse circuit room door for a not to exceed amount of \$4,946.00 (\$4,121.77 plus 20% contingency) utilizing monies budgeted for capital outlay (010-018-55010-000) in the Technology Support budget. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

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

Water Usage: Mr. Tibbitts commented on Mr. Rowley's updates on the municipal wells. He noted that last season's water use in Diamond Valley was 55,000 acre feet of water, which represents a 28% reduction in pumping from just five years ago (even during a dry year like this past season). And this was without imposition of the Groundwater Management Plan over this past year, which shows the positive steps the irrigators have taken to reduce pumping.

Mining Permitting: Mr. Tibbitts noted there are currently six projects in the permitting stage. The weekly, sometimes biweekly meetings, and associated environmental analysis are virtually nonstop.

Firewise Committees: The Firewise Committees are being reinvigorated post-COVID. The Eureka committee met on July 28<sup>th</sup> and Crescent Valley will meet on August 8<sup>th</sup>. The Firewise Community Days, typically held in May, are tentatively scheduled for September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> in Eureka and Crescent Valley respectively.

Mule Deer Enhancement Program: The local Steering Committee for the Mule Deer Enhancement Program (Mr. Tibbitts, Jayme Halpin, Bill Hicks, Anthony Miller, and Trent Gordon) has met and done field tours. Projects are now being prioritized and will focus on pinyon-juniper removal and water development projects (in cooperation with ranchers).

Eureka Conservation District: The Conservation District was successful in securing grant funding to continue its sage grouse projects. One of the pinyon-juniper removal contractors will be in the area next week to review sites and potentially accept some projects.

Upcoming Meetings: The Humboldt River Basin Water Authority will hold a virtual meeting on August 12<sup>th</sup>. The Conservation District will meet on the afternoon of August 16<sup>th</sup>, and the Natural Resources Advisory Commission will meet that evening.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Gibellini Mine Project is available and the public meetings are scheduled on August 16<sup>th</sup> in Ely and August 17<sup>th</sup> in Eureka. Mr. Tibbitts encouraged the Commissioners to attend, noting that the recent public meeting in Crescent Valley on the Goldrush Project was only attended by two members of the public.

The State Land Use Planning Advisory Council will meet in Elko on August 19<sup>th</sup>; Mr. Tibbitts is SLUPAC Chair and will not attend the Commission meeting of that same date.

US Fish & Wildlife Service Proposed Regulation Revisions: Mr. Tibbitts said a lot of organizations nationwide are watching the proposed rule to revise regulations concerning experimental populations of endangered and threatened species under the Endangered

Species Act. The proposed changes are based on climate change and would allow the Fish & Wildlife Service to move experimental populations of endangered or threatened species to areas outside of their historical range.

Mr. Tibbitts prepared a letter outlining multiple reasons why Eureka County opposes the proposed revisions, which would greatly impact mining and agriculture. Moving these endangered species onto ranges, public lands, and rights-of-way that are rightfully and lawfully used by ranchers, miners, and even municipalities is highly concerning. The letter also notes that the proposed rule does not square with two recent US Supreme Court decisions, one related to greenhouse gas regulations and one related to the definition of habitat. With the proposed rule, the US Fish & Wildlife Service basically wants carte blanche to move these species wherever they wish.

Chairman Goicoechea motioned to send the letter to the US Fish & Wildlife Service with Eureka County's comments on proposed revision to regulations concerning experimental populations of endangered species and threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Cooperating Agency Status – Robertson Mine Project EIS: Mr. Tibbitts prepared a letter accepting cooperating agency status for Eureka County's participation in the EIS process for Nevada Gold Mine's Robertson Mine (adjacent to the Cortez Mine). Mr. Tibbitts said the letter is typical of others in the past, citing the County's special expertise which qualifies them as a cooperating agency.

Mr. Tibbitts noted that, as is often the case with BLM deadlines, the County did not receive timely notice to take action in a public meeting and respond by the 15-day deadline, so he asked the BLM to extend the deadline to the first meeting in August.

Commissioner McKay motioned to send the letter to the BLM, Mount Lewis Field Office, accepting cooperating agency status for the Robertson Mine Project EIS process. Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

Cooperating Agency MOU – Bald Mountain Mine Juniper Project EIS: Mr. Tibbitts noted that this project is outside of Eureka County, but will have socioeconomic impacts, and Eureka County shares a boundary with adjacent White Pine County and therefore has shared natural resource interests.

Mr. Tibbitts reminded the Board that representatives of Bald Mountain Mine visited with the Board in 2020 and said the County could expect an invitation to participate as a cooperating agency on the EIS for this expansion. More than a year passed and then Kinross Bald Mountain folks attended a Commission meeting this past April, again promoting kickoff of the Juniper Project expansion.

Mr. Tibbitts has been attending meetings for the Juniper Project EIS, and recently learned that cooperating agency status had not been extended to Eureka County – or rather, it had been extended, but for whatever reason, the letter was never received by Mr. Tibbitts or the Commissioners. He quickly cleared up the matter and worked with the BLM on a Memorandum of Understanding.

Commissioner McKay motioned to accept and sign the cooperating agency Memorandum of Understanding with Ely District BLM on the Bald Mountain Mine Juniper Project Environmental Impact Statement. Chairman Goicoechea seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received from: Connie Hicks; Forest Anderson; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board; Central Nevada Regional Water Authority; Humboldt River Basin Water Authority (2); Nevada Gold Mines; Nevada Supreme Court (Answer to Petition for Rehearing, Diamond Valley Groundwater Management Plan); Nevada Water Resources Assoc.; Nevada Div.

of Environmental Protection; US Senator Jacky Rosen; US Dept. of Health & Human Services/Dept. of Policy & Medical Programs; and US Dept. of the Interior, BLM.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments.

Shealene French, Advanced EMT, thanked PACE Coalition, Catholic Charities, and Shannon Ernst, Director of Social Services for Churchill County, for providing car seats and support. Ms. French and Jeri Sanders were recently trained and nationally certified in proper installation of child safety car seats. They installed new car seats in both Eureka and Crescent Valley during their participation in the National Night Out events.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

*Approved by vote of the Board this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2022.*

/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 5, 2022, meeting of the Board of Eureka County Commissioners.*

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

*I, Kathy Bacon Bowling, 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/ Kathy Bowling  
Katherine J. Bowling, Clerk