

BOARD OF EUREKA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

October 15, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

STATE OF NEVADA)
 :SS
COUNTY OF EUREKA)

CALL TO ORDER

1. Approval of the agenda notice with addition of any emergency item and/or deletion of any item. *Unless otherwise stated, items may be taken out of the order presented on the agenda, in the direction of the Chair. (For Possible Action)*
2. Pledge of allegiance.

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law on October 15, 2024. Present were Chairman Rich McKay, Vice Chair Marty Plaskett, Commissioner Mike Schoenwald, and Clerk Recorder Kathy Bowling. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. The interactive video conferencing system between Crescent Valley and Eureka experienced an outage for 5 minutes during public comment but then was connected for the rest of the meeting.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the agenda, Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Public comment and discussion. *Notice: No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item until the matter has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action will be taken. Public comments may be limited to three (3) minutes per person. Public comment may be allowed on "Action" items, in addition to the two times specified on the agenda. (Discussion)*

Chairman McKay explained that there wouldn't be any public comment on Commissioners item #3 during public comment, only when the item was discussed. Chairman McKay called for public comment in Crescent Valley, the video conferencing crashed, and they were unable to be heard. Chairman McKay called in Eureka, hearing none he proceeded to the next item.

2. Consider items requiring action to be placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting. *Notice: The public is welcome to request agenda items for future meetings during the Public Comment period or may consult with one or more of the Board of Commissioners to request agenda items for future meetings. (Discussion)*

None considered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of amended minutes of September 17, 2024, Commission meeting, and the minutes of October 1, 2024, Commission meeting. *Note: The minutes for the September 17, 2024, meeting was requested to be amended to correctly identify public comment that took place during the public hearing. (For Possible Action)*

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the amended Commission meeting minutes of September 17, 2024, and the Commission meeting minutes of October 1, 2024. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

COUNTY COMPTROLLER – Kim Todd, Comptroller

1. Payment of expenditures. *Notice: Expenditures received after action has been taken under this Comptroller section may be presented and acted upon throughout the day. (For Possible Action)*

The Board along with Comptroller Kim Todd reviewed the expenditures.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the expenditures of \$3,390,078.73 with the pass throughs of \$815.63 to Nevada Department Taxation Room Tax, \$1,044,222.93 to Nevada State Controller-School Taxes, \$1,024,848.41 to Nevada State Controller, \$140,010.00 to Nevada Division of Minerals, \$135.00 to Washoe County Crime Lab. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

2. Review Fund Balance Report. **(Discussion)**

The Board reviewed the current fund balance report.

COMMISSIONERS-

1. Discuss, approve or deny the Indigent Defense Financial Status Report for Quarter 1 of Fiscal Year 2025, detailing costs expended for provision of public defense services. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the Indigent Defense Financial Status Report for Quarter 1 of Fiscal Year 2025, Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

2. Discuss, approve or deny approving the continuation of the independent services contract with William Bee Ririe Hospital to operate and staff the medical clinics in Eureka and Crescent Valley, in an amount not to exceed current funding levels. **(For Possible Action)**

Crescent Valley audience member Tracey Mellard expressed her frustration with the William Bee Ririe contract, she explained that Eureka County provides the buildings, equipment,

utilities, maintenance, patients, and she believes they shouldn't have a budget of \$630,000. She mentioned the self-pay rate is \$270 per visit which is about a \$100 increase over the last two years. She also mentioned that cash pay does not qualify for the 75% discount. She questioned why the Crescent Valley clinic is not a certified rural clinic, she would like to see that change. She also requests that the clinic be open more than 1 day a month. She also mentioned that if the current provider does not meet their contractual obligations, they should be held accountable. Crescent Valley audience member Laura Shivers respectfully corrected Tracey Mellard, cash pay does qualify for the 75% and the rates are \$159 for a visit. She also mentioned that the clinic is open 2 days a week. Chairman McKay explained the new negotiated contract has a fund split of \$423,000 for Eureka and \$210,000 for Crescent Valley. Chairman McKay acknowledged the frustrations with William Bee Ririe, he mentioned that they did send out bids but there were none besides Telemedicine options. He referred to the Crescent Valley Medical Services Advisory Committee on services they think may be a better fit. Crescent Valley audience member Laura Shivers and Crescent Valley Medical Services Advisory Committee board member mentioned that they are continuing to speak with other providers and will keep the Board updated. Crescent Valley audience member and Crescent Valley Medical Services Advisory Committee board member Nona Kellerman acknowledged the issues with William Bee Ririe but that the Board chose to go ahead with the current contract. William Bee Ririe is willing to work with Crescent Valley and their citizens, so while the Crescent Valley Medical Services Advisory Committee board continues to work in the background, they are happy for the help William Bee Ririe is offering. Commissioner Plaskett clarified from his understanding Crescent Valley clinic is not a rural clinic because of its closer proximity to a larger hospital while Eureka is a farther distance to the nearest hospital.

3. Discuss, approve or deny a request from Lee Raine with Raine's Market, to purchase three adjacent parcels located in the commercially designated portion of the Eureka Canyon Subdivision. The requested parcels are 001-221-09, 001-221-10 and 001-221-11. **(For Possible Action)**

Lee Raine, Scott Raine and Steele Raine with Raines LLC came before the Board asking to purchase three adjacent parcels located in the commercially designated portion of the Eureka Canyon Subdivision: parcels 001-221-09, 001-221-10 and 001-221-11. They have heard from the public, people want a car wash, laundry mat and hotels. They are wanting to start with a car wash and a laundry mat with the parcels. Jeb Rowley explained that there is some road maintenance, fire hydrants, storm drain maintenance that needs to be done. He explained that depending on the parcels they buy, the road from Ridgetop to Canyon St would need to be finished. Jeb brought to light the question of who funds the maintenance that needs to be done. Scott Raine explained that they are aware of what needs to be done, when they put in Raines Market, they paid for the 3 fire hydrants and storm drains. The Board discussed potentially parceling the lots into smaller parcels. Commissioner Plaskett explained that the Board and the County are responsible for the parcels not being more completed and ready for sale. He explained that there is a lot of work that needs to be done on the Counties side to get the parcels ready for sale. Commissioner Plaskett suggested tabling the item until further discussion can be had, and a plan can be made.

Commissioner Schoenwald motioned to table the item, Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

The Board took a 5-minute recess.

Chairman McKay called the meeting back to order at 10:39 a.m.

SHERIFF- Charles Cobb, SGT

1. Discuss, approve or deny permanent credit card increase to \$1000 for Detective Jason Flanagan. This will help offset the monthly purchase of dog food and upkeep for the K9 program. There are also unforeseen expenditures for travel for investigations. **(For Possible Action)**

Seargent Charles Cobb explained that Detective Jason Flanagan pays for background investigations on his card as well as travels often, the increase will help cover all the needed expenses.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve a permanent credit card increase to \$1000 for Detective Jason Flanagan, Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor motion carried 3-0.

SENIOR CENTERS-Linda Gordon, Senior Center Program Director

1. Report on activities at the Eureka Senior Center and Fannie Komp Senior Center. **(Discussion)**

Senior Center Program Director, Linda Gordon reported that the income rate for the month was \$14,911.36. The meal count for Crescent Valley was 633, Eureka served 700 meals. That evening was their monthly dinner and the last for the year, they served a rib dinner. Linda and Shanlee will have the Senior Center open for trick or treating from 3:30 to 5 on Halloween.

EUREKA RESTORATION ENTERPRISE- Garney Damele

1. Update of Eureka Restoration Enterprise's progress of the restoration project of the Masonic Lodge Building located at 101 N Main St, Eureka. **(Discussion)**

Garney Damele, Winnona Eversgerd and Jamie Damele updated the board on the progress that the Eureka Restoration Enterprise has been doing with the Masonic Lodge building project. The Masonic Lodge is an 1880 building and is the only lodge in America that still meets underground, the top floor consists of 3 rooms that have sat vacant for decades. They have restored the main room that the Country Store is currently in, they are wanting to restore the other rooms and restore the ceiling/floor so that the building can continue to be used.

2. Discuss and consider a letter of support for the continued restoration of the Masonic Lodge located at 101 N Main St, Eureka. **(For Possible Action)**

Garney Damele explained that Eureka Restoration Enterprise is a nonprofit and she continues to accept donations and apply for grants. For a grant that she is applying for she is asking the

Board for a letter of support for the continued restoration of the Masonic Lodge located at 101 N Main St, Eureka.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve a letter of support for the continued restoration of the Masonic Lodge located at 101 N Main St, Eureka and to allow the Chairman to sign outside of the meeting. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

AMBULANCE & EMS- Kenny Sanders, EMS Director

1. Report on ambulance and emergency services. **(Discussion)**

Shalene French reported in place of EMS Director Kenny Sanders, for September they had 36 calls, 25 were from Eureka and 11 from Crescent Valley. They had 18 refusals, 12 transported, 4 standbys; 3 were for the football game and 1 for the SWAT call. 1 transferred to a paramedic or higher-level unit, MedEx landed on scene for a transfer. 1 transport to Battle Mountain, 3 to medics, 5 to NRH and 4 to Reach. For the third quarter, they had 66 calls to Eureka and 47 for Crescent Valley. They will be on standby for the football playoffs held in Eureka and then move into Basketball season. Shalene explained that in the next few weeks to month they will be going through vehicle inspections and training for the pain medicine protocols.

JUVENILE PROBATION-Steve Zimmerman, JPO

1. Discuss, approve or deny adopting a Proclamation declaring October 21st – 26th, 2024, as Red Ribbon Week commemorating the National Drug Prevention Campaign, with local events and activities sponsored by Eureka County Juvenile Probation. **(For Possible Action)**

Steve Zimmerman explained October 21-26 is Red Ribbon Week commemorating the National Drug Prevention campaign sponsored by Eureka County Treatment operation. It will be the 36th year that Eureka County has participated in since it was nationally recognized in 1988. They will be working with student council and leadership classes to provide fun educational activities all week in both Eureka and Crescent Valley. Nevada Department of Investigations task force will be teaching self defense classes during PE.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve adopting a Proclamation declaring October 21st – 26th, 2024, as Red Ribbon Week commemorating the National Drug Prevention Campaign. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

PROCLAMATION
2024 RED RIBBON WEEK

WHEREAS, The NATIONAL RED RIBBON WEEK CAMPAIGN, will be observed October 23-31, 2024 in Eureka County, and shall be known as “Red Ribbon Week”; and
WHEREAS, The Eureka County Juvenile Probation Department will be the chairperson of the county wide focus on a “Drug Free America”; and

WHEREAS, The Red Ribbon Campaign is a comprehensive drug-abuse prevention education program designed to create awareness, build coalitions, and support healthy, drug-free lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, The Red Ribbon Campaign is a catalyst to mobilize communities into action and create a drug-free environment in every neighborhood in Nevada by wearing and displaying red ribbons during the week-long campaign; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners and the School Board of Trustees of Eureka, Nevada do hereby support and set October 23-31, 2024 as “RED RIBBON WEEK”, and encourage all citizens to participate in drug awareness and education activities, making a visible statement that we are strongly committed to a drug-free healthy lifestyle.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners and the School Board Trustees of Eureka, Nevada encourages all students, faculty, employees, administration, and elected officials, to pledge to remain drug free with this year’s theme –
“LIFE IS A MOVIE, FILM DRUG FREE”

/s/ President, Eureka County School Board of Trustees

ATTEST: /s/ Clerk

/s/ Chairman, Eureka County Commissioners

ATTEST: /s/ Clerk

HUMAN RESOURCES – Tasha Dunlap, HR Director

1. Report on Human Resources projects and activities. (Discussion)

HR Director, Tasha Dunlap reported that they have been conducting interviews, she will be attending the POOL PACT training for HR at the end of the month. She attended a NEOGOV training in Las Vegas. She is organizing a Halloween staff potluck on Monday the 28th.

COUNTY FACILITIES – Jeb Rowley, Public Works Director

1. Report on activities and projects at County managed facilities. (Discussion)

Public Works Director, Jeb Rowley reported for the month of September the Opera House had 190 attendees for events, 100 visitors outside of that. October events in both Eureka Opera House and Crescent Valley Townhall will be the Flu shot, various Halloween activities and parties. The museum had 40 visitors, the swimming pool had 120 swimmers, they are still maintaining 10 swimmers on the swim team. The landfill saw 600 customers producing 400 yards of solid waste, 800 yards of CMD. They have received the new doors for the Sheriff’s office and Opera house. They will be working on installing Starlink on the roof of the Court House.

1. Report on Public Works projects and activities. (Discussion)

Public Works Director, Jeb Rowley reported that David Jones will be going around and swapping out fire extinguishers throughout all the buildings and vehicles. Buildings and grounds will be going around and winterizing parks and irrigation systems. CPR training was performed across public works staff and road department crews. October is free dump weekends, and they have seen an increase in tires in both landfill locations. He expects the last of the radio upgrades soon.

2. Discuss, approve or deny a ¾-inch residential water meter and service application to serve APN# 002-039-04 located in the Town of Crescent Valley. (For Possible Action)

Commissioner Schoenwald motioned to approve a ¾-inch residential water meter and service application to serve APN# 002-039-04 located in the Town of Crescent Valley. Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

3. Discuss, approve or deny ratifying a ¾-inch residential water meter and service application to serve APN# 007-380-89 located in Devil’s Gate GID District #1. (For Possible Action)

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve ratifying a ¾-inch residential water meter and service application to serve APN# 007-380-89 located in Devil’s Gate GID District #1. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

4. Discuss, approve or deny authorizing emergency repairs to the HVAC system at Eureka County Opera House due to system failure. The emergency nature of the repairs requires immediate action to protect the building from water damage and ensure public services remain available, which necessitates waiving the competitive bidding process pursuant to NRS 332.112. Additionally, the Board will authorize staff to proceed with the repairs, with the final costs to be presented for ratification at a future meeting once the repairs are completed and all costs are determined. *Note: The funds will be expended from the Building Operations and Maintenance fund (040-130-55010- 000).* (For Possible Action)

Jeb Rowley explained that the HVAC unit is on the room of the Opera house, with the damages it is leaking water and pushing it under the roof membrane. If they continue to leave it in that location it will lead to many more critical issues. Jeb explained that because it is early in the fiscal year, and this is not an expense they were expecting he is wanting to use money from the Building Operations and Maintenance fund to cover the project.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve authorizing emergency repairs to the HVAC system at Eureka County Opera House due to system failure and expend funds from the Building Operations and Maintenance fund (040-130-55010- 000). Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

1. Report on current and emerging natural resource issues affecting Eureka County. (Discussion)

Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts reported to the Board that he met with Nevada Gold Mines on September 19 about their requirements of under water monitoring, management and mitigation plans. He attended a meeting with Gold Bar on September 23 they went out and looked at some road issues. There was discussion around creating a possible four way stop at the intersection of Roberts Creek Road and the Hull Road, after going out to the site they decided not to proceed. Jake explained that at the September 26 meeting with the Sagebrush ecosystem council the State director of BLM announced that they will not be issuing a final EIS until after the first of the year. Jakes opinion is that they are wanting to see the outcome of the election before they determine how to move forward with the final EIS. Jake mentioned that NRAC did make recommendations on the two letters in the next action items.

2. Discuss, approve or deny commenting to Elko BLM on the Programmatic Wildfire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR) and Weeds Environmental Assessment (EA). (For Possible Action)

Jake explained to the Board that regarding Elko BLM's Programmatic Wildfire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR) and Weeds Environmental Assessment (EA) he suggests the Board comment that they agree with the EA but they ask for some improvements. He suggested asking for improvement around range land, livestock grazing and the counties authority over county roads.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve commenting on Elko BLM on the Programmatic Wildfire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR) and Weeds Environmental Assessment (EA). Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

3. Discuss, approve or deny commenting to Battle Mountain BLM on the Ruby Hill Underground Mining and Transport Project Environmental Assessment (EA). (For Possible Action)

Jake Tibbitts explained to the Board that he suggests supporting but asking for clarity on the social economics of the project. He stated that the EA was clear on the existing disturbances, they will expand on patented ground and will not be adding any dewatering. They will continue the community advisory group and adding over 100 jobs to the area. He would suggest asking for more information on the number of heavy trucks that will be added to the road, the lack of county authority to the Hog Pen Road and the lack of social economics.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve commenting on the Battle Mountain BLM Ruby Hill Underground Mining and Transport Project Environmental Assessment (EA). Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Review correspondence. **(Discussion)**

Clerk Recorder Kathy Bowling read the correspondence; BLM Email seeking input for wild horse herd management plan in Northeast Nevada, Nevada Water Resource Association Committees and New Program Implementation, NWRA Annual Conference Week January 27-30, 2025 (4 emails), NACO County News, Allison Mackenzie Nevada Day celebration Invite on October 26, 2024, thank you letter from Nevada Outdoorsmen in Wheelchairs for the October 1, 2024, \$3,000 contribution. Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board Agenda for October 16, 2024, Follow the Law Letter from Melody Clark.

2. Commissioner reports on pertinent correspondence or other matters. **(Discussion)**

None considered.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Public comment and discussion. *Notice: No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item until the matter has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action will be taken. Public comments may be limited to three (3) minutes per person. Public comment may be allowed on "Action" items, in addition to the two times specified on the agenda.* **(Discussion)**

Chairman McKay called for public comment in Crescent Valley, Jane Mason came to the Board to ask for support in finding a solution for the Post Office problems they are experiencing. Crescent Valley no longer has a Post Office and there is rumor that the drop box may be getting taken away. Jane talked with the Postmaster in Carlin and was told that Crescent Valley doesn't make enough money to bother with. Jane explained that there are businesses in Crescent Valley that use these services along with the other 400 people. She is hoping that the Board can help with support in talking to Las Vegas and helping them understand how badly they need these services. Commissioner Schoenwald echoed these concerns and showed his support in helping find a solution. Laura Shivers echoed her concern on the issues and voiced concern on the many businesses that will be affected. Chairman McKay also voiced his support in helping Crescent Valley and backing Commissioner Schoenwald with whatever help he will need. Chairman McKay called for public comment in Eureka, Eleny Carryon owner of The Owl Club explained that after reviewing the audio and minutes from the September 17 Liquor Board meeting, she did not feel comfortable working with Sheriff Jesse Watts. She asked the Board to help her with the liquor application for the special event being held at the Opera House on October 26. She explained that the event will be a 21 and over party and they will be serving alcohol from 5 pm to close. Chairman McKay urged Eleny to reach out to Lieutenant Miles Umina for the Liquor License.

2. Consider items requiring action to be placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting.
Notice: The public is welcome to request agenda items for future meetings during the Public Comment period or may consult with one or more of the Board of Commissioners to request agenda items for future meetings. (Discussion)

None considered.

ADJOURNMENT

1. Adjournment of meeting.

Commissioner Schoenwald motioned to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

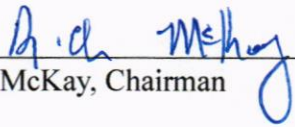
Meeting adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

Prepared and submitted by Deputy Clerk Recorder, Katelyn Ziemann.

Approved this 3rd day of December 2024 by the Board of County Commissioners.

ATTEST:


Kathy Bowling, County Clerk Recorder


Rich McKay, Chairman