

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
August 19, 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 19, 2022. 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. The interactive video conferencing system was connected and utilized between Crescent Valley and Eureka for the entire meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the agenda; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. Chairman Goicoechea began the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments. Commissioner McKay asked for a moment of silence in memory of Ezekiel Covarubius who had passed tragically in an accident. He announced that there would be a Service tomorrow at 10am at the Fairgrounds.

Cindy Beutel with Healthy Paws reported that she drove 12 cats to Ely because of a grant that would cover the cost every week for up to 15 cats. She reported that she went to Beowawe with 7 kittens and 13 dogs were picked up by the SPCA. Cindy gathered 32 dogs and 1 cat at Palisade's, took 2-3 days to finish the job. The SPCA drops off food to Cindy which she in turn gives to Catholic Charities which is then given to dogs/cats in Ely, Caliente, Carlin. Cindy then stated there is not enough dog and cat food. JJ reported that another member from the community passed away, Mike Laughlin. He stated that life is fragile and short and to hold your loved ones tight.

There were no further comments from the public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 6, 2022: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve minutes of the June 6, 2022 meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

COMPTROLLER

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Comptroller DeAnna Colby. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$787,616.89 for the amounts payable. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

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

COMMISSIONERS

Non-Disclosure Agreement: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve Non-Disclosure Agreement (Policy Statement on Client Confidentiality) with Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Perdiz Sport Shooting: Commissioner McKay motioned to extend the lease until June 5th 2023. This lease is between Eureka County and Perdiz Sport Shooting, to allow the parties time to consider the outline of a longer agreement and all matters properly relating thereto. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Recreation Board: Chairman Goicoechea motioned to approve Jeffrey Bartley's resignation from the Recreation Board after discussion. Commissioner McKay mentioned that he spoke with the new owner about the Recreation Board and he will assign his general manager to replace Jeff on the Recreation Board meetings. Administrative Assistant Jackie Berg and Commissioner McKay discussed appointing the general manager to the Recreation Board. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

AMBULANCE AND EMS

Report of Activities: EMS Shealene reported there were a total of 51 calls for ambulance service in July, with 32 responses from the Eureka station and 19 responses from the Crescent Valley station. The majority transferred to hospitals (several to Battle Mountain and two to Ely), two transfers to REACH Air and majority of patients were transferred to MedX Air One. Shealene states that there were quite a few refusals or fatalities. EMS participated in the Fair weekend. Commissioner McKay asked if her and Kenny had spoken with Superintendent Tate Else about what events they would be covering for the School District. Shealene replied that they would probably cover Football and Basketball, she wasn't sure about Volleyball. Commissioner Sharkozy asked how the ambulances were doing in Crescent Valley. Shealene responded that the ambulances were having major issues. Eureka County's Ambulance and EMS department received a new vehicle and sent one ambulance to Crescent Valley due to several repairs needed. Jeb Rowley with Eureka County Public Works stated that these repairs are not warranty fixes and that most of the issues are repairable.

Principles of Prevention Conference: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve out-of-state travel on September 27th-30th for Shealene French to attend the Utah Principles of Prevention Conference in St. George, Utah. The conference will be funded and reimbursed by PACE Coalition in Elko. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

ORMAT TECHNOLOGIES

Scott Nicholas, Manager, Regulatory Affairs presentation and update on Ormat's geothermal exploration. Scott Nicholas, presented that Ormat Technologies has an interest in Crescent Valley and that they are doing some exploration there. Ormat Technologies is also doing an expansion at the McGuinness Hills Plant, a solar expansion. Scott stated he wanted to go over what is involved in geothermal resource development and some of the advantages and some disadvantages.

COMMNET BROADBAND

Jojo Myers Campos, Director, Broadband Business Development presentation on two broadband projects in Crescent Valley and the wireless trial for Eureka. Connect America Funding is a reverse auction that only service providers participate in.

ASSESSOR

Assessor Mears gave an explanation on how a mistake was made on parcel 001-221-14 when it was created and what needed to be done in order to fix the error and refund taxes that were billed in error.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve a request from McEwen Mining Nevada Inc. for a tax refund on APN 001-221-14. A parcel not owned by Gold Bar Enterprises LLC, in the total amount of \$1,436.31 (annual taxes of \$478.77 paid for Fiscal Years 2020, 2021, and 2022). Commissioner McKay seconded that 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 a little over \$900,000. Pernecia stated to the commissioners that they are going to have an unrealized loss on investments in the fiscal year 2022 for almost \$3,000,000.

SHERIFF

Crescent Valley Housing Shortage:

Commissioner McKay updated the Board on a trip he took to Beowawe to visit two mobile home trailers owned by the School District, with Commissioner Sharkozy, Doran Adams from the School District, Jeb Rowley, Public Works Director and Miles Umina from the Sheriff's Office. One mobile home trailer was livable and the other one was not livable and would need to go out to bid for repairs. He reported that the School District drew up an interlocal agreement that was reviewed by the DA. The agreement would include use of the entire parcel and all buildings on the property with the County being responsible for maintenance and utilities. More Discussion took place between Jeb Rowley, Commissioner Goicoechea and Marshall Everston.

Chairman Goicoechea entertained going to the Eureka County School Board for further discussion regarding the possible sale of just the mobile home to be moved to a parcel in Crescent Valley. Commissioner McKay suggested asking the School District for just the use of the land where the mobile home trailers reside. All agreed to ask for an item to be placed on the School District agenda at their next meeting for further discussion of the matter.

PUBLIC WORKS

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

Upcoming Road & Utility Project: Jeb Rowley provided a report to the Board on the heating/cooling project at the Court House. He reported that the old boiler was removed from the Court House and currently trenching was being completed for the new power supply ditches from the power pole behind the Senior Center to the Court House. Mt. Wheeler is preparing for installation and Chester plumbing will be arriving after Labor Day weekend to start their portion of the work.

Building assessments will be starting at Eureka County Sherriff's Office and at the Eureka County Library. Installation of an AC unit at the Eureka County Ambulance/EMS building.

Jeb reported that they had held interviews for the Public Works Office Admin/Assistant position and should be choosing a. Back to school parties will be happening at the swimming pool and also new life guard training. The water tie-in for the 3rd street looping is finished on from El Paso to El Centro. Jeb reported on roads and stated that there will be pot holing and digging test pits in Crescent Valley for the road improvement plan. Jeb stated that he will be meeting with Great Basin and White Pine County Road Dept. to assist with Railroad pass road graveling and will be allowing White Pine to access a gravel pit about a mile and a half inside the county line to obtain gravel for their access road.

Healthy Paws: (a) Commissioner McKay motioned to approve donating a 2006 Ford Expedition to Healthy Paws for the humane control of unwanted animals. Jeb Rowley with Eureka County Public Works received a letter from Cindy Buetel with Healthy Paws to request for a surplus vehicle. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

(b) Commissioner McKay made a motion to adopt a resolution for the donation of said vehicle. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Stewart Tile Company: Commissioner McKay motioned to approve designating Stewart Tile Company in Elko, Nevada, as the escrow company for property sales in the Eureka Canyon Subdivision, and all matters properly relating thereto. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; Motion carried 3-0.

Eureka County Sherriff's Office Vehicles: Jeb Rowley reported that he met with Jesse Watts with the Eureka County Sheriff's Office to identify matching number of patrol vehicles in the Sherriff's Office fleet to be reassigned, replaced, or declared surplus for the consideration of new vehicles requested by the Sheriff. Jeb states that 9 vehicles were identified as being removed from the Sheriff's asset list as 4 new vehicles come in. Jeb reported that Jesse said he needs 15 total vehicles assigned to staff. Jeb also reported that the surplus vehicles could be used by other Departments in the County.

Ken Garff: Commissioner McKay motioned to approve purchasing four used vehicles from Ken Garff in Salt Lake City utilizing funds budgeted for Sheriff vehicles/equipment (042-140-55010-092) in the Capital Projects Fund of \$194,261.64 with budget left a little over 4,000. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Report of Activities: Jake Tibbitts, Natural Resources Manager absent, no report given.

BLM Wild Mare Fertility Control: Commissioner McKay motioned to approve commenting on BLM Wild Mare Fertility Control Research Environmental Assessment and for Chairman Goicoechea to sign outside of the meeting. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Goldrush Mine Project: The Board discussed and considered responses to Goldrush Mine Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Commissioner McKay motioned to approve. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded motion; Motion carried 3-0.

Hydrologic Monitoring Program: The Board discussed federal fiscal year 2023 Joint Funding Agreement 23ZJJFA00102 with US Geological Survey for continuation of multi-year. Hydrologic Monitoring Program in the Kobeh Valley, Mount Hope and Roberts Mountains Vicinity in the amount of \$151,410.00 with Eureka County's portion at \$98,420.00 and USGS match at \$52,990.00. Commissioner McKay motioned to approve for another year. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

Review Correspondence: Jackie Berg reported on the following Correspondence: A letter to Governor Sisolak approved at last meeting; Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board Agenda; RDA Email; Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection; Permits; Division of Minerals; BLM Tonopah Fuel; Little Fish Lake JMI; BLM Ely District News Release; Final EA for sale land out of White Pine County; \$5,000 reward for info. on 5 wild horse shootings; National Certification of Counties; Governing ENews.

Commissioner Reports: Chairman Goicoechea reported having a conversation with Director Ott from the Nevada State Department of Agriculture for the use of ARPA funds for small businesses, he stated that they will be moving forward with a project/program. They are going to be paying for the moving of livestock and piggybacking onto an FSA program. The Department of Agriculture director had concerns regarding documentation and background for when they are audited for the use of those funds.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND DISCUSSION

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments; there were none.

ADJOURNMENT

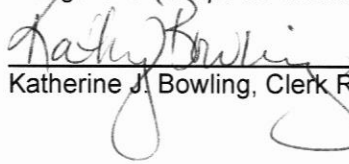
Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; the meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

Approved by vote of the Board this 20th day of January, 2023.



Richard McKay, Chairman

I, Katherine J. Bowling, Clerk Recorder of Eureka County, acknowledge and accept the attached minutes as approved by the Board of Eureka County Commissioners



Katherine J. Bowling, Clerk Recorder