

BOARD OF EUREKA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

February 18, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

STATE OF NEVADA)
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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 February 18, 2025. Present were Chairman Rich McKay, Vice Chair Marty Plaskett, Commissioner Mike Schoenwald and County Clerk Recorder Kathy Bowling. District Attorney Ted Beutel was absent from the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. The interactive video conferencing system was connected between Crescent Valley and Eureka for the entire meeting.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve agenda with the tabling of the February 4, 2025 meeting minutes, Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion. 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 called for public comment in both Eureka and Crescent Valley, hearing none in either 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 the minutes of the February 4, 2025, Commission meeting. **(For Possible Action)**

Item was tabled.

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 Schoenwald motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$1,029,448.97 with the passthroughs of Nevada Department of Taxation Room tax of \$188.77, Nevada State Controller-School taxes of \$224,367.90, Nevada State Controller of \$4,212.29, Nevada Division of Minerals of \$520.00, and Washoe County Crime Lab of \$196.00 for a total of \$229,484.96. Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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

The Board reviewed the current Fund Balance Report.

COMMISSIONERS

1. Discuss legislation being considered by the Nevada Legislature at their upcoming 2025 Session. No position on legislation will be taken by the Board at this time. **(Discussion)**

Nothing was reported.

2. Discuss, approve or deny an MOU with the Eureka Sheriff's Office Sworn Personnel Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3 to add a Physical Fitness Testing Incentive effective February 18, 2025. *Note: This physical fitness incentive was previously negotiated to be added to the contracts once the training and testing criteria were approved and the program was established.* **(For Possible Action)**

Acting Sheriff Umina explained that the Sheriff will notify Eureka Sheriff's Office Sworn Personnel 60 days before the physical fitness test date, they can then choose to take the physical fitness test. The test will be equal to Post standards and if they pass, they can receive \$750. They only get one try to complete the test. He explained that it is a great incentive for the Eureka Sheriff's Office Sworn Personnel to work consistently to stay in shape and reward them for it.

Commissioner Schoenwald motioned to approve an MOU with the Eureka Sheriff's Office Sworn Personnel Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3 to add a Physical Fitness Testing Incentive effective February 18, 2025. Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

3. Discuss and determine the process for advertising, accepting applications and conducting interviews for the appointed Sheriff position that would begin April 1, 2025, and would end on December 31, 2026. **(For Possible Action)**

The Board decided to begin accepting letters of interest for the appointed Sheriff position to serve the remaining term which will end on December 31, 2026. The Board will conduct interviews and appoint a new Sheriff at the March 18, 2025 Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Schoenwald motioned to approve accepting letters of interest and conduct interviews on March 18th for the appointed Sheriff position. Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion. 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 for the month of December they took in \$23,911.20 and for January \$4,105.60. Eureka's Senior Center averaged 38 meals a day and the Fannie Komp Senior Center averaged 36 meals a day.

IT-Misty Rowley, IT Director

1. Update on IT projects and activities. **(Discussion)**

IT Director, Misty Rowley reported that they worked on database health checks, attended a Cisco virtual AI summit, attended a Cisco Due best practices meeting. She worked with department heads on IT portions of their budgets as well as the IT budget. They worked on the February newsletter and social media troubleshooting and resolved an issue with network traffic flow.

2. Discuss, approve or deny out-of-state travel for the IT Director to travel to California, June 7th to June 13th for the Cisco Live Conference. *Note: If approved, travel, lodging, and per diem will be paid with funds budgeted for travel and training.* **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve out-of-state travel for the IT Director to travel to California, June 7th to June 13th for the Cisco Live Conference. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

3. Discuss, approve or deny Quote #Q-91025 from Smarsh for the purchase of social media and text message archiving software, for a one-time fee of \$4,860.00 and an annual recurring fee of \$4,165 to be paid and authorize the IT Director to sign the Order Form outside of the meeting. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the Quote #Q-91025 from Smarsh for the purchase of social media and text message archiving software, for a one-time fee of \$4,860.00 and an annual recurring fee of \$4,165 to be paid and authorize the IT Director to sign the Order Form outside of the meeting. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

4. Discuss, approve or deny authorizing the IT Director to sign (outside of the meeting) a consent form agreeing to accept services from the State of Nevada, Department of Public Safety, Office of Cyber Defense Coordination (OCDC). *Note: These cybersecurity threat data services are provided at no cost to SLTT (State, Local, Tribal, & Territorial Governments) under a grant to OCDC in coordination with efforts to create a Statewide Security Operation Center.* **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Schoenwald motioned to approve authorizing the IT Director to sign, outside of the meeting, a consent form agreeing to accept services from the State of Nevada, Department of Public Safety, Office of Cyber Defense Coordination. Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

COUNTRY ROADS COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT- Robin Blanco

1. Discuss, approve or deny a request from Robin Blanco for a donation of \$1,000.00 from the Commissioners' miscellaneous grants account (010-001-53010-085) for purchase of supplies and prizes for a Community Easter Egg Hunt. **(For Possible Action)**

Robin Blanco explained to the Board that she has been putting on the Easter egg hunt since 1995, they give out books, toys, games, cash and a bicycle.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve request from Robin Blanco for a donation of \$1,000.00 from the Commissioners' miscellaneous grants account (010-001-53010-085) for purchase of supplies and prizes for a Community Easter Egg Hunt. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

NORTH END ACTIVITY FUND

1. Discuss, approve or deny request from Marcial Evertsen for a donation of \$1,000.00 from the North End Activity Fund (010-071-53030-018) to purchase supplies for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt in Crescent Valley on April 19, 2025; if approved, issue check to Marcial Evertsen. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Schoenwald motioned to approve request from Marcial Evertsen for a donation of \$1,000.00 from the North End Activity Fund (010-071-53030-018) to purchase supplies for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt in Crescent Valley. Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

2. Discuss, approve or deny a request from Emily Whittlesey to be re-imbursed for materials she purchased for the Crescent Valley Community Center History Wall in the amount of \$500.00 to be paid from the North End Activity Fund (010-071-53030-018). **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Schoenwald motioned to approve request from Emily Whittlesey to be re-imbursed for materials she purchased for the Crescent Valley Community Center History Wall in

the amount of \$500.00 to be paid from the North End Activity Fund (010-071-53030-018). Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

CRESCENT VALLEY TOWN ADVISORY BOARD-

1. Discuss, approve or deny the purchase of a warming table and salad bar from Webstraunt Store for an amount not to exceed \$6,797.26 from the Capital Outlay Projects Fund (042-140-55010-311). **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the purchase of a warming table and salad bar from Webstraunt Store for an amount not to exceed \$6,797.26 from the Capital Outlay Projects Fund (042-140-55010-311). Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

NEVADA OLD TIME FIDDLERS' CONTEST-Kim Russell

1. Discuss, approve or deny waving the rental fee for the Opera House, May 16th & 17th, 2025, to host the Nevada Old Time Fiddlers' Contest. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve waving the rental fee for the Opera House, May 16th & 17th, 2025, to host the Nevada Old Time Fiddlers' Contest. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

UNR EXTENSION PROGRAM- JJ Hendrickson

1. Presentation and recognition of the winners of the Eureka County Radon Visual Art Contest for ages 9-109, for their outstanding artistic interpretation about radon testing and education. **(Discussion)**

JJ Hendrickson gave a short presentation on Radon; what Radon is, the effects of Radon, how to test for it, and briefly how to remove it if found. She also presented the winners of the Eureka County Radon Visual Art Contest for ages 9-109, for their outstanding artistic interpretation about radon testing and education. They had 11 entries and are already planning for next year potentially adding 3D art as an option. Braylen Hubbard won the 9–13 year old group, Summer Picca won the 14-19 year old group and Cystal Hubbard won the 20+ year old group. Free Radon test kits can be picked up at the UNR Extension office on main street.

AMBULANCE & EMS- Nicole Cooley, EMS Medical Services Director

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

EMS Medical Services Director, Nicole Cooley reported that for the month of January Eureka had 15 runs, Crescent Valley had 4, Crescent Valley Census Designated Place had 4, Dunphy had 1 and Duckwater had 1. They had a transport to Battle Mountain, Northeastern Nevada Regional, and 3 to Reach Air. They have interviews scheduled on the 20th for the EMT 1, 2, and 3 positions. Crescent Valley EMT 1, 2, and 3 position openings will close on the 25 and will hold interviews following.

2. Discuss, approve or deny a request from the Northern Nevada EMS Consortium (NNEMSC) for a donation totaling \$2,500.00, for the 3rd Annual Rural Nevada Trauma Symposium held on March 8, 2025, at the Elko Conference Center in Elko, Nevada, to be paid utilizing funds budgeted for miscellaneous grants (010-001-53010-085) in the Commissioners' budget. **(For Possible Action)**

Nicole Cooley explained that this donation also pays for a table for 5 people to attend the 3rd Annual Rural Nevada Trauma Symposium, which is a training for rural Nevada medical services. The Board was in support of the training to specifically focus on the mental health services in our county.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the request from the Northern Nevada EMS Consortium (NNEMSC) for a donation totaling \$2,500.00, to be paid utilizing funds budgeted for miscellaneous grants (010-001-53010-085) in the Commissioners' budget. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

HUMAN RESOURCES-Tasha Dunlap, Human Resources Director

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

Human Resources Director, Tasha Dunlap reported that POOL/PACT is hosting an anti-harassment training the next day at the Opera House for all staff and supervisors. She will be partnering with Ely to put on some trainings in the near future for newly appointed and elected officials focusing on open meeting laws. There will also be a finance training and supervisor training for reasonable suspicion happening at the end of March.

SHERIFF- Miles Umina, Acting Sheriff

1. Report on Sheriff's Office projects and activities. **(Discussion)**

Acting Sheriff, Miles Umina gave a patrol statistics report for 2024; there were 15,826 total incidents, 334 total deputy cases, 45 misdemeanor and felony arrests, and 246 citations. He has increased patrols on main street as well as police presence at all the school sports games. Sheriff Umina presented the board with a tentative patrol schedule, an A shift and a B shift. The shift times have changed, allowing for deputy overlap during the hours of mine shift changes, hoping to decrease reckless driving in heavy trafficked areas.

2. Discuss, approve or deny a Quote from AT&T in the amount of \$289,572.79, for a 6-year contract for upgrading the existing 911 VESTA system and monthly service fees utilizing monies from Sheriff Capital Outlay account (010-034-55010-000) and Sheriff's Office Services and Supplies account (010-034-53010-000). **(For Possible Action)**

Sheriff Umina and Seargent Cobb explained that upgrading the 911 VESTA system is 2 years overdue, the contract of \$289,572.79 comes out to \$1,119.00 per month for 72 months total.

Commissioner Schoenwald motioned to approve the Quote from AT&T in the amount of \$289,572.79, for a 6-year contract for upgrading the existing 911 VESTA system and monthly service fees utilizing monies from Sheriff Capital Outlay account (010-034-55010-000) and Sheriff's Office Services and Supplies account (010-034-53010-000). Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

The Board took a 5-minute recess.

Chairman McKay called the meeting back to order at 10:54 a.m.

PUBLIC WORKS – Jeb Rowley, Public Works Director

1. Report on County Facilities / Public Works projects and activities. **(Discussion)**

Public Works Director, Jeb Rowley reported for the county facilities, the landfill had 366 visitors for 111 tons of compacted municipal solid waste. He talked to Tilio with Olcese, they had issues processing their ACH payments, it has been fixed and are able to process credit cards starting June 1st. The Opera house had 460 people attend events, and 20 tourists for the month of January. They will have red card training in Crescent Valley, Eureka and Diamond Valley in March. The swimming pool had 82 swimmers, 3 private lessons, 2 pool parties, 41 senior citizens, and 21 participants on the Eureka swim team.

2. Discuss, approve or deny proposal LA23.875a from Lumos and Associates for professional services related to the Kobeh Valley Well and Transmission Main Project in the amount of \$1,068,600.00, utilizing funds from Capital Outlay in the Water Mitigation Fund (125-247-53010-745). *Note: These costs will be reimbursed under the Nevada Water Conservation Infrastructure Initiative (NWCII) funding agreement previously awarded to Eureka County.* **(For possible action)**

Jonathan Lesperance with Lumos and Associates and Jeb Rowley discussed the proposal LA23.875a from Lumos and Associates for professional services related to the Kobeh Valley Well and Transmission Main Project. The \$1,068,600.00 project will continue the design of the transmission line in conjunction with the location and design of the production well and exploration. The costs of the project will be funded by a grant from the Nevada Water Conservation Infrastructure Initiative (NWCII) that was awarded to Eureka County.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the proposal LA23.875a from Lumos and Associates for professional services related to the Kobeh Valley Well and Transmission Main Project in the amount of \$1,068,600.00, utilizing funds from Capital Outlay in the Water Mitigation Fund (125-247-53010-745). Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

3. Discuss, approve or deny accepting the 2024 Water Master Plan update as prepared by Lumos and Associates, and provide direction to the Public Works Director for recommendations outlined in the plan. **(For Possible Action)**

Jeb Rowley explained that in January 2023 the county adopted a plan to consolidate all the municipal water systems ordinances and rates. Since then, they have developed a short- and long-term capital improvement plan based on deficiencies in all the water systems. The 2024 Water Master Plan update, as prepared by Lumos and Associates, provides direction to the Public Works Director for recommendations outlined in the plan. The plan includes rate structure, consolidating water systems, and separating out the Eureka town sewer.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the 2024 Water Master Plan update as prepared by Lumos and Associates and direct the Public Works Director to look at the need of additional rate studies, and breaking out the water sewer costs, as well as moving forward with the ideas on consolidation of the whole system. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

NATURAL RESOURCES – Jake Tibbits, Natural Resources Director

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

Natural Resources Director, Jake Tibbits reported that he attended a phone call on February 6 with Nevada Gold Mines and Trout Unlimited. They are looking to start implementing a

watershed improvement project for the entire Maggie Creek watershed. Jake attended the National Association of Conservation District annual meeting in Salt Lake. The Diamond Valley Rodent District met on February 13th. Following the Commission meeting Jake will be attending the Water Law Working Group meeting and the Central Nevada Regional Water Authority Legislative Committee. Later that night there will also be the Natural Resource Advisory Committee meeting.

2. Discuss and consider response on the Nevada Department of Wildlife planned release of desert big horn sheep on the Cortez Range. **(For Possible Action)**

Chairman McKay called for public comment, Kathy Bowling read a letter emailed in for public comment, Tom Fennell a board member and past president of the Nevada Bighorns Unlimited, wanted to speak in support of the Nevada Department of Wildlife's planned release of desert bighorn sheep in the Cortez Range. He stated that bighorn sheep are an integral part of Nevada's wildlife heritage and their reintroduction to suitable historic ranges is a proven conservation strategy that both benefits the species and the broader ecosystem. Nevada Bighorns Unlimited has worked for over 40 years to support the multi-use model, including ranching while also promoting wildlife conservation efforts across Nevada. Kathy Bowling read another email letter; Tiffany East of Great Basin Wildlife Conservancy expressed strong support for the proposed reintroduction of bighorn sheep in the Cortez mountains. The initiative directly aligns with GBWC's mission to enhance habitat for all wildlife species in Nevada, it supports biological science-based wildlife management policies and counteracts efforts that seek to undermine the proven model of conservation. The Cortez mountains provide ideal habitat conditions including plentiful forage, wood, water and connectivity to existing herds, making this an excellent location for reintroduction. Audience member Don Klevenall stated that he previously worked for NDOW and now represented Elko Bighorns Unlimited, he echoes support from the public comments previously read. He mentioned that the population objective is over a 15-year period, there will be lots of science-based endeavors throughout that period. He hopes that Eureka County can support the endeavor.

Caleb McAdoo Deputy Director of the Nevada Department of Wildlife came before the Board to discuss the importance of bighorn sheep being released into the Cortez Range. He explained that historically bighorn sheep have occupied almost every mountain range in Nevada, there is evidence that they once occupied the Cortez Mountain Range. The department started the reintroduction project in 2007/2008, due to lingering domestic sheep permits that were still in play, the project was paused. Today the permits have been vacated, and the proposal is back on the table. Caleb McAdoo, Don Klevenall, Scott Roberts, Marissa Murphy and Matt Schenck with Nevada Department of Wildlife came before the board in an "emergency situation". The bighorn sheep in the Muddy Mountains, which is one of Nevada's largest desert bighorn sheep herds has run out of forage and water resources. They have now found themselves in a fast-forwarded attempt to protect the animals. They are slated for a massive emergency water haul involving NDF helicopters, although they expect this to be a short-term solution. Ultimately the animals need to be relocated, and NDOW believes the Cortez Range could help these animals continue to thrive. Caleb McAdoo stated that they have talked to numerous permittees and all the sheep permittees within the immediate area are comfortable with the release given a cooperative agreement stating the understanding of perceived risks. The Nevada Cattlemen's Association is not in support and feels the cattle permits could be negatively affected. Jake Tibbitts explained that the Eureka County Wildlife Board has voted to support the project with contingencies. Jake

Tibbitts commented on his support for the project. Caleb McAdoo also commented that Nevada Gold Mines is in support. Caleb McAdoo explained that they have scheduled the capture for June contingent on the BLM's answer. Crescent Valley audience member Marcial Evertsen gave a public comment, he mentioned that in 2007 the wild horses primarily dominated the Cortez Range causing a series of issues. Since then, the wild horse numbers have dwindled by 3,000 plus, the habitat is back, the water, deer antelope, have returned. He also mentioned that a horse weighs 600-800 pounds, 60 sheep is somewhere in the order of 10 horses. He mentioned that if the Cortez Range can support the release of the bighorn sheep, then they should help the animals. He also mentioned that if cattle survived when the wild horses were there, they would survive with the sheep just fine.

Commissioner Schoenwald motioned to approve a positive response in support of the planned release of the desert bighorn sheep on the Cortez Range in recognizing the emergent condition and the potential transplant in June of 2025. Also, to direct NRAC to work with the BLM on the impacts of cattle and sheep. Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

3. Discuss and consider response on scoping for Elko BLM Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Grazing Permit Modifications and Range Improvements Project. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve a response on scoping for Elko BLM Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Grazing Permit Modifications and Range Improvements Project. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

4. Discuss, approve or deny out-of-state travel for Natural Resources Manager to attend the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, & Teaching (CARET) annual advocacy meeting in Washington, DC, February 24-26. *Note: Mr. Tibbitts is an appointed NV CARET delegate by the Dean of University of Nevada, Reno College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, & Natural Resources (CABNR) and serves on the national CARET Executive Committee. Full expenses for travel, lodging, meals and per diem will be paid for by CABNR.* **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve out-of-state travel for Natural Resources Manager to attend the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, & Teaching (CARET) annual advocacy meeting in Washington, DC, February 24-26. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

5. Discuss, approve or deny a one-time credit card increase of \$1000 (\$1,500 total) in March 2025 for Hallee Dechambeau. *Note: Hallee Dechambeau, 3 members of the Crescent Valley/Beowawe Firewise Committee and 1 member of the Eureka/Diamond Valley Firewise Committee will be attending the 2025 Fire Adapted Nevada Summit in Reno, Nevada on March 17 and 18. Credit card increase will cover the costs of lodging for the 2025 Fire Adapted Nevada Summit.* **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve a one-time credit card increase of \$1,000 (\$1,500 total) in March 2025 for Hallee Dechambeau. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

6. Presentation by Consulting Hydrogeologist, Dale C. Bugenig, on Diamond Valley water level monitoring. This item may include action by or direction from the Board on the overall monitoring program. **(For Possible Action)**

Consulting Hydrogeologist, Dale C. Bugenig gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Board on Diamond Valley water level monitoring. His presentation was brief and focused on the 12 data loggers; 11 in Diamond Valley and 1 west of Devils Gate. He also discussed the indicator of both recharge, massive recharge and reduction in pumping. His graphs showed the positive efforts on behalf of the farmers and the groundwater management plans.

No action was taken.

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 BUDGET

1. Conduct budget reviews with departments listed below including possible action or direction related to tentative budgets. *Note: Tentative Budgets are due to the Department of Taxation by April 15, 2025. All budgets are subject to revision before adoption of the Final Budget which is due by June 1, 2025. (For Possible Action)*
 - a. Crescent Valley Town Board
 - b. Television District
 - c. Sheriff's Office
 - d. Public Works
 - i. Buildings & Grounds
 - ii. Road
 - iii. Regional Transportation Commission (RTC)
 - iv. Swimming Pool
 - v. County Parks
 - vi. Emergency Management
 - vii. Opera House & Museum
 - viii. Landfill
 - ix. Planning Board
 - x. Cemetery
 - xi. Airport
 - xii. LEPC
 - xiii. Eureka Town
 - xiv. Crescent Valley Town
 - xv. Eureka Water & Sewer/Crescent Valley Water/Devil's Gate Water

Crescent Valley Town Board: Jeremy Rice explained that they are wanting to purchase a utility trailer to store and transport their bounce house, storing it in a Conex building is causing wear and tear. He also explained that a few citizens have requested outdoor walking/exercise equipment to be put in their park. They have done some research and are expecting around \$45,000 for the outdoor exercise equipment and a security camera for the park.

TV Board: Elmer Porter presented a budget of \$325,000, a third of that budget is to replace and upgrade grounding equipment at 2 of the mountain tops. They have discussed potentially shutting down Mary's Mountain, something they will be discussing over the next year. Elmer also mentioned that they have had requests for the Las Vegas Fox channel, that they will be looking into adding.

Sheriff: Acting Sheriff Miles Umina and Sergeant Cobb presented the Sheriff's office budget; they have decreased the budget by 9%. They have decreased the services and supplies, machine maintenance, search and rescue, public relations, and investigations. They have eliminated the

conference expense budget and decreased the travel and training. They also discussed the many changes made, leading to great progress in fuel costs.

Buildings & Grounds: Jeb Rowley presented a flat budget for the Buildings and Grounds department; they discussed combining budget line items vehicle repairs with vehicle maintenance. Currently Eureka County owns 30 buildings, they discussed the option of breaking them up into their own budget or leaving them all on the same.

Road: Jeb discussed the budgets that are connected to road agreements with mines for maintenance. The insurance budget has increased, and the asphalt budget has increased.

RTC: Jeb explained that the RTC budget covers major road utility projects, such as a road washout. The budget also covers the Phase 2B project, which encompasses the street repair and Crescent Valley airport.

Swimming Pool: Jeb presented the budget has no changes.

County Parks: Jeb presented that other than an increase in insurance there were no changes.

Emergency Management: Jeb explained that the services and supplies budget pays for fire department physicals and hazard mitigation. He also discussed that the state emergency budget decreased.

Museum: The Board discussed the hours of the Opera House and the public complaints about it not being open to tourists.

Opera House: Kathy Bowling provided public comment on behalf of herself and other comments she hears, addressing the antiquated lighting in the Oper House. The old lighting on the stage is very hot for the people performing on the stage, causing people to not want to perform at the Opera House. Also, the projector equipment that is there is also old and difficult for people to use for presentations and trainings. The Board discussed the possibility of looking into replacing the lighting.

Landfill: Jeb explained that there is a subsidy reduction in contract services that covers Olcese and Atlas Towing.

Planning Board: Jeb presented the budget has no changes.

Cemeteries: Jeb explained an increase for weed control.

Airport: Jeb presented that the runway maintenance budget has increased.

LEPC: Jeb explained the increase in travel and training is for Hazmat trainings for LEPC members.

Eureka Town: The Board discussed sidewalk and new lighting projects, Jayme explained they are having to look for a new architect, so nothing final.

Crescent Valley Town: Jeb presented a budget cut to street maintenance, otherwise no changes.

Eureka Water: Jeb explained that insurance and investments fees have increased, they also had to switch companies they go through for water testing's, leading to having to increase the budget.

Eureka Sewer: Jeb presented an increase to the insurance budget.

Crescent Valley Water: Jeb presented an increase in tank diving for repairs.

Devils Gate: Jeb presented an increase to postage to accommodate the rising costs.

No action was taken.

2. Review, discuss and provide direction related to continued funding of vacant positions, proposed staffing levels and new personnel requests from department heads. (For Possible Action)

Kim Todd and departments heads discussed vacant positions and new personnel requests. Acting Sheriff Umina discussed a request for a casual non-sworn position in Crescent Valley, the individual would be stationed at the Public Works office in the Town Hall. This casual position would have the job duties of taking reports and complaints, they would also be a notary and trained on public works to handle water bills etc.. Acting Sheriff Umina also discussed adding a detention facility position, currently when an individual gets arrested and needs to be held for 12 hours, they must be driven to Ely and then brought back after the time is up. Sergeant Cobb explained that last fiscal year Eureka County paid \$113,000 to White Pine County to house Eureka County's inmates, adding this detentions deputy would greatly cut the holding costs. Misty Rowley requested a casual position in the IT department, they have taken on more duties, including helping the Webmaster. The casual position in IT could work up to 29 hours in a week, not working every week. Jeb Rowley requested an equipment operator and a facilities park event coordinator. The road equipment operator would be paid from the MOU with Nevada Gold Mines. The facilities park event coordinator would restructure the swimming pool supervisor's position. The position would over see the swimming pool, Opera House, Museum and facility parks and events. Kim Todd explained that adding the requested positions would cost an extra \$449,000, also adding these job positions the department heads will still have to go before the board for hiring freeze waivers.

No action was taken.

3. Review, discuss and provide direction to the Comptroller related to proposed cost of living adjustments for Non-PERS and PERS employees, effective July 6, 2025. *Note: All union contracts have pre-negotiated a 3% increase for FY 2025.* (For Possible Action)

The Board discussed the change in legislation on elected officials, there still has not been any changes yet. Kim Todd has budgeted 25% increase to accommodate the potential "catch up" costs and changes in elected officials' salaries. The Sheriffs office union has pre negotiated a 3% cost of living adjustment. The Board decided to give a 5% cost of living adjustment, with the PERS pay the employees will get 3.375%

No action was taken.

4. Discuss and consider any fund transfers that will be required to fund operating and capital expenses in Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and provide direction to the Comptroller to include the transfers in the Tentative Budget. **(For Possible Action)**

The Board discussed fund transfers, taking into consideration the projects budgeted for, such as the utility plan 2C. They discussed transferring funds from water, RTC, and the general fund.

No action was taken.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

County Clerk Recorder, Kathy Bowling read the meeting correspondence; Nevada Water Resources Association (NWRA) tour of Amaragosa Valley email, (NWRA) 2025 Southern Nevada Luncheon on March 25, 2025, (NWRA) 2025 Gold Quarry Mine Tour on April 28-29, 2025, NACO newsletter, Nevada Housing Division (NHD) Survey Flyer, NHD Webinar for Feb. 20, 2025, Rodent Board Agenda, for Feb. 13, 2025, Eureka Conservation District for Feb.13, 2025, Crescent Valley Town Board Agenda for Feb. 19, 2025, Eureka County TV Board Agenda for Feb. 7, 2025, NRAC Agenda for Feb. 18, 2025, Letter to Majority Leader Nicole Cannizzaro and Speaker Yeager for the release of federal lands. A Proclamation from the Gov. Office to order all flags to be flown at half-staff on Feb. 13th in honor of Officer Jason Roscow, killed in the line of duty on Feb.4, 2025. A Letter from the Nevada Division of Minerals identifying the safety hazards associated with abandoned mine openings in the state. A letter from Elko County Manager Amanda Osborne, announcing that Jon Karr has been named Chair of the BOCC for 2025 and Delm Andreozzi appointed Vice Chair. A letter from Eureka County High School requesting a donation for a scholarship for the 2025 Graduating Class. Nevada Division of Water Resources letter in regards to Application 93985 from Nevada Gold Mines, LLC.

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

The Board discussed performing a walkthrough of the Eureka County Sheriff's substation in Crescent Valley on April 1. They discussed possibly placing on the next agenda the dentist contract, tabled minutes, the scholarship donation, and the library contract. Jeb Rowley expressed to the board that he will have the Kobeh Valley preliminary reports on the next agenda.

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 comment 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, Lisa Wolfe for the Eureka Sentinel commented on the recent resignation of the full time EMT's. She will be interviewing and writing a strip on the situation. She mentioned that in the 20 years that she has lived in Eureka County she has never experienced a time when she thought if she called for an ambulance, that one would not show up. She mentioned that the HR director and EMS director requested that she send her story to them first, but she feels as a journalist that is not right and

will not be sending it to them. Chairman McKay called for public comment in Eureka, audience member Deanna Pollock commented that unfortunately her family recently did need EMS services over Christmas, and she felt very fortunate to have that option in such a small community. She wanted to mention her very positive experience that her family had; she understands that when people have a negative experience, they are quick to voice that. But she felt that the Board should hear about the positive experiences as well. She commented that she was very thankful for Shealene and her dad's help when it came to her daughter. They treated her like family, made her feel comfortable and that her daughter's life was just as important to them as it is to her. She commented that they were professional and helpful at keeping her calm. She wanted to thank them for helping her when her family needed EMS services. Commissioner McKay gave a public comment addressing Lisa Wolfes comment, he mentioned that Eureka County is not required by law to provide an ambulance service, that being said, they of course want ambulance services to support the entire county. He commented that the 2 resignations were regretted, they tried to change things in the past 6 months for them, but unfortunately, they still got burnt out. They do have contingency plans that they are working on and are hiring to replace those positions. He commented that they have full confidence in the new EMS director Nikki Cooley, she also understands the urgency of the situation and has looked into a contract EMT service. Mike Schoenwald asked a question about how long it would take to get a contractor in. Nicole Cooley answered the question stating that an MOU is in the works and that they would be stationed in Carlin.

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 Plaskett motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Prepared and submitted by Deputy Clerk Recorder, Katelyn Ziemann.

Approved this 18th day of March 2025 by the Board of Eureka County Commissioners.

ATTEST:


County Clerk Recorder, Kathy Bowling


Chairman, Rich McKay

Vice-Chair 3/18/2025