

# BOARD OF EUREKA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

September 17, 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 September 17, 2024. Present were Chairman Rich McKay, Vice Chair Marty Plaskett, Commissioner Mike Schoenwald via video conference, District Attorney Ted Beutel, and Clerk Recorder Kathy Bowling. The meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. The interactive video conferencing system was connected between Crescent Valley and Eureka for the entire 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 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, hearing none he called in Eureka. Eureka audience member Cindy Adams stated that she is happy to see the K-9 going to a good home. She also stated that she believes the Sheriff should be 24/7 Monday through Friday. She also inquired about the Sheriffs item about the quote for a trailer to act as a command center, she is happy to see the quoted price have gone down. Cindy commented on the Sheriff's office budget of \$5,772,000.00 and that it is \$1,327,500.00 more than last year, she asks the Board where does it stop?

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 September 3, 2024 Commission meeting. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve commission meeting minutes from September 3, 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 expenditures of \$2,358,070.05 with the pass through accounts of \$761.19 to Nevada Department of Taxation room tax, \$1,317,825.17 to Nevada State Controller- School Taxes, \$11,896.24 to Nevada State Controller, \$10,570.00 to Nevada Division of Minerals, \$117.00 to Washoe County Crime Lab for a total of \$1,341,169.60. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, 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 a request from Travis Gallagher to reduce the rental fees for use of the Eureka Fairgrounds to sponsor cornhole games from October 2024 through April 2025. He proposes paying \$200.00 for the season to cover 10 teams, plus an additional \$20.00 for each additional team above 10. **(For Possible Action)**

Travis Gallagher came before the Board to request the use of the Fair building at the Fair grounds and asked for the rental fees to be reduced to \$200. He reported that their weekly cornhole games were quite successful seeing 10-15 teams every Friday, moving into the Fair building would allow them to continue playing as the weather gets colder.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve reducing the rental fees of the Eureka Fairgrounds to \$200 plus an additional \$20.00 for each additional team above 10 for cornhole games from October 2024 through April 2025. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

3. Discuss, approve or deny signing a contract with Genesis Home Health Services effective September 17, 2024, through June 30, 2026, with a not to exceed amount of \$60,000.00 for the contract term. **(For Possible Action)**

The Board discussed that the price will be \$45,000.00 each year, they want to add hospice care and home health in Crescent Valley to the contract. The Board clarified that the \$45,000.00 will only be paid for services delivered.

Commissioner Schoenwald motioned to approve contract with Genesis Home Health Services effective September 17, 2024, through June 30, 2026 with the said changes to the contract. Commissioner Plaskett 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 the Fannie Komp Senior Center in Crescent Valley served 739 and the Eureka Senior Center served 716 meals. They deposited \$4,132.34 for the month.

2. Discuss, approve or deny the Title VI Implementation Plan, to be submitted to NDOT upon approval, for the County's Senior Center wheelchair vans to remain compliant and for the County to receive grant funding for the vans. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the Title VI Implementation Plan to be submitted to NDOT, Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

**NEVADA GOLD MINES**-Shawna Adams and Heather Dahlman

1. Update and discussion on the NGM JD Lodge Facility. **(Discussion)**

Shawna Adams, the Nevada Gold Mine Community Representative and Heather Dahlman who works in Capital and Infrastructure at Cortez gave a presentation to the Board on their plans with reopening the JD Lodge. They explained that with reopening the Lodge they are expecting to remove about 40 vehicles from the highway traveling to and from the job site twice per day. The target date to open is November 1<sup>st</sup>. The first dorm that they will be opening has 144 beds, they have 2 more dorm buildings but will start with the one. They will continue to work with the road department and EMS in the reopening and going forward.

**AMBULANCE & EMS**- Kenny Sanders, EMS Director

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

EMS Director, Kenny Sanders reported that they had a busy August the majority of the calls were being standby for football games and the high school rodeo. They had a total was 41 calls, 27 were from Eureka, 14 from Crescent Valley. They transported 1 to Battle Mountain, 5 transports to NNRH in Elko, none to Ely, 2 transfers to Reach Air, 5 patients to Medex Air and 1 transfer with Lander County EMS. They will continue to be on standby for high school and junior high football. Their medications variance request to the State Board was approved.

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

Human Resources Director, Tasha Dunlap reported that she has been working on reviewing the personnel policies and she held a round table discussion with department heads to discuss any suggested changes to the personnel policy manual. She will be helping POOL PACT put on an Influential Leadership training at the Opera House on October 3 for supervisors and managers.

2. Discuss, approve or deny proposed updates to the Appraisal Supervisor job description. **(For Possible Action)**

Michael Mears explained that he previously had a Chief Deputy Assessor position that was tied to his salary, so he eliminated that position and created the new position of Appraisal Supervisor instead. The job won't be tied to his salary so it will allow the person to move up the scale. The duties of the job will stay the same.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the proposed updates to the Appraisal Supervisor job description, Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

3. Discuss, approve or deny proposed updates to the Telecommunicator I, II or III job description. **(For Possible Action)**

Sheriff Jesse Watts explained to the Board that the updates to the job description will cover workman's comp for the new video and audio capabilities that the dispatchers will use.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve proposed updates to the Telecommunicator I, II or III job description, Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

4. Discuss, approve or deny a proposed Department Assistant job description. **(For Possible Action)**

Tasha explained that the job description will be a for a casual worker to help cover various departments.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the proposed Department Assistant job description, Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

5. Discuss, approve, or deny a Hiring Freeze Waiver for Department Assistant, which was approved and budgeted for FY 2024-2025. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve a Hiring Freeze Waiver for Department Assistant, which was approved and budgeted for FY 2024-2025. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

6. Discuss, approve or deny a proposed Chief Deputy Clerk Recorder Job Description. **(For Possible Action)**

Kathy Bowling explained that currently she doesn't have a supervisor position in her office so creating a Chief Deputy Clerk Recorder Job will allow someone to be in charge when she is out of the office.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the proposed Chief Deputy Clerk Recorder Job Description; Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

7. Discuss, approve or deny a Hiring Freeze Waiver for the Chief Deputy Clerk Recorder, which was approved and budgeted for FY 2024-2025. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the Hiring Freeze Waiver for the Chief Deputy Clerk Recorder, which was approved and budgeted for FY 2024-2025, Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

8. Discuss, approve or deny a hiring freeze waiver for 2 Deputy Sheriff I/II/III which was approved and budgeted for FY 2024/2025. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the hiring freeze waiver for 2 Deputy Sheriff I/II/III which was approved and budgeted for FY 2024/2025, Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

**SHERIFF-** Miles Umina, LT and Charles Cobb, SGT

1. Review Quote from Young Truck & Trailer Center and discuss, approve or deny authorizing the purchase of a 2025 Wells Cargo 8.5' X 24' Enclosed Office Trailer for the purchase price of \$24,014.34 (includes 5% contingency) utilizing funds budgeted for capital outlay (042-140-55010-092) in Sheriff's Office 2024/2025 budget. **(For Possible Action).**

Sergeant Cobb and Lieutenant Umina came back to the Board with more information on the 2025 Wells Cargo 8.5' X 24' Enclosed Office Trailer to be used as a mobile command center. They explained that as far as tech, they already have everything to outfit the trailer, extra radios, computers. They chose this size of trailer so that any of the Sheriff trucks can pull it.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the purchase of a 2025 Wells Cargo 8.5' X 24' Enclosed Office Trailer for the purchase price of \$24,014.34 (including 5% contingency) utilizing funds budgeted for capital outlay (042-140-55010-092) in Sheriff's Office 2024/2025 budget.

Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

2. Review Quote from Ken Garff Ford and discuss, approve or deny authorizing the purchase of six (6) – 2022 Ford F-150 Patrol Trucks for the total purchase price of \$321,300.00 (includes 5% contingency) utilizing funds budgeted and approved for Capital Outlay Sheriff's Vehicles (010-034-55010-092) in Sheriff's Office 2024/2025 budget. This quote is for used and outfitted Patrol vehicles. Note: Four (4) existing vehicles will be removed from service and traded in which will reduce the fiscal impact of the purchase. **(For Possible Action)**.

Sergeant Cobb, Lieutenant Umina and David Jones explained to the Board that they will be working closely together to find the best deals for the new vehicles. They will be purchasing used trucks with low mileage that already have all of the equipment needed.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the purchase of six (6) – 2022 Ford F-150 Patrol Trucks for the total purchase price of \$321,300.00 (includes 5% contingency) utilizing funds budgeted and approved for Capital Outlay Sheriff's Vehicles (010-034-55010-092) in Sheriff's Office 2024/2025 budget. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

3. Pursuant to Personnel Policy 5.7.3, consider authorizing the Eureka County Sheriff's Office to make an advanced step hire for the position of Deputy Sheriff II at Range ELE 11/Step 7 on the Eureka County wage and salary scale for a Lateral Deputy Sheriff Applicant, contingent to start date of October 7, 2024, stationed in the Southern Area Command (Eureka). **(For Possible Action)**

Detective Flanagan explained to the Board that the individual that they want to hire is an FTO and has his category 1, 2 and 3 posts. He has been working in Humboldt County, so he already knows Nevada law and has worked with CAD systems. He wants to move his family here; he is excited to get them in the school district.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve an advanced step hire for the position of Deputy Sheriff II at Range ELE 11/Step 7 on the Eureka County wage and salary scale for a Lateral Deputy Sheriff Applicant, contingent to start date of October 7, 2024, stationed in the Southern Area Command (Eureka). Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

4. Discuss, approve or deny K-9 Contract between Eureka County and Jason Flanagan for the purchase of K- 9 Scout in the amount of \$1.00. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the K-9 Contract between Eureka County and Jason Flanagan for the purchase of K- 9 Scout in the amount of \$1.00. Commissioner Schoenwald 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 and opened the Public Hearing at 11:06 a.m.**

## **PUBLIC HEARING-EUREKA COUNTY PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL**

*Notice was given that the Board of Eureka County Commissioners will hold a public hearing on September 17th, 2024 beginning at 11:00 a.m. (local time) in the Eureka County Commissioners chambers in the County Courthouse, at 10 South Main Street in Eureka, Nevada. The reason for said hearing is to invite public comments and take action on the Eureka County Personnel Policy with various updates and amendments of the policy. The resolution was reviewed by the Board of County Commissioners on September 3, 2024 and a copy of said resolution is on file with the County Clerk for public examination. The updated Policy is available to view at the County's website:*

<https://www.eurekacountynv.gov/>

1. Open public hearing and invite comments on amendments to the Eureka County Personnel Policy. **(Discussion)**

Tasha Dunlap presented changes and edits to the Eureka County Personnel Policy; the employee bullying section, any damage to county vehicles must be reported to public works, no matter the amount of damage. She edited the verbiage around employee issued cell phones. She updated the leave of pay at termination; elected county officers must not be paid or accumulate annual leave upon termination per NRS 245.210. Crescent Valley audience member Tracey Mellard asked if any of these policy changes will affect the Sheriff's office. Tasha Dunlap responded that any policies in the Personnel Policy that aren't addressed in a union contract the sheriff must abide by. Tracey Mellard asked if the union has been brought into any of the changes. Tasha responded that an employee would get them a copy and that her understanding, and from legal counsel, is that when they are making changes to the Eureka County Personnel Policy it is not something they have to notify the union about. Eureka audience member DeeAnna Colby mentioned that as of right now there is no budgeted amounts for educational assistance, she suggested it is something to think about. Discussion ensued around educational assistance, the amount paid and how long a person must be employed by Eureka County to qualify.

2. Consider adopting as presented, adopting with further revisions or denying a resolution amending the Eureka County Personnel Policy. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve presented revisions to the resolution amending the Eureka County Personnel Policy, Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

### **FRIENDS OF CVVFD-** Tracey Mellard, President

1. Discuss, approve or deny a request for the Crescent Valley Community Center, Cook Shack and Grounds use fees to be waived to host the Crescent Valley Halloween Event on October 31, 2024 from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm. **(For Possible Action)**

The Board approved item 1&2 at the same time.

2. Discuss, approve or deny a request for a donation in the amount of \$1,500.00 for the Crescent Valley community event, Crescent Valley VFD Halloween Party, held on October 31, 2024 from 6:00 pm to 10 pm. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the request for the Crescent Valley Community Center, Cook Shack and Grounds use fees to be waived and a donation of \$1,500.00 for the Crescent Valley community event, Crescent Valley VFD Halloween Party, held on October 31, 2024 from 6:00 pm to 10 pm. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

**COUNTY FACILITIES** – Jayme Halpin, Assistant Public Works Director-Project Manager

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

Assistant Public Works Director-Project Manager, Jayme Halpin reported to the Board that they have been working with Mount Rose on the medical clinic heating repairs, they also worked on the swamp cooler air handler failure at the Opera House. They also have been getting quotes for door repairs at the Opera House and the Medical Clinic.

**PUBLIC WORKS** – Jayme Halpin, Assistant Public Works Director-Project Manager

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

Assistant Public Works Director-Project Manager, Jayme Halpin reported to the Board that the Ruby Hill project should be coming to a close soon. He has 6 out of the 7 FEMA grants approved and just waiting on the last one.

2. Discuss, approve or deny authorizing Public Works to advertise a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking a qualified independent contractor to develop and update the Eureka County, White Pine County, and Ely Shoshone Tribe Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve Public Works to advertise a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking a qualified independent contractor to develop and update the Eureka County, White Pine County, and Ely Shoshone Tribe Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

3. Discuss, approve or deny purchasing equipment for ten (10) SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) units from LN Curtis for an amount not to exceed \$101,476.14, utilizing funds from Emergency Management (010-040-55010-000). **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve purchasing equipment for ten (10) SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) units from LN Curtis for an amount not to exceed \$101,476.14, utilizing funds from Emergency Management (010-040-55010-000). Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.



4. Discuss, approve or deny a 3/4-inch residential water meter and service application to serve APN# 001- 031-11 in the Town of Eureka. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve a 3/4-inch residential water meter and service application to serve APN# 001- 031-11 in the Town of Eureka, Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor 3-0.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES** – Jake Tibbitts, Natural Resources Manager

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

Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts reported that the GreenLink North Project has a new draft EIS that he will have on a future agenda, he will be attending a field visit out at McEwen on Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The BLM greater sage grouse final EIS will be out early to mid-October. Wednesday night the 18<sup>th</sup>, I-80 is having their town hall meetings at the Eureka Depot at 6:30 p.m. all is welcome. On the 19<sup>th</sup> Jake will be traveling to Cortez to attend a water meeting. The next week will be the Rodent Board and Conservation District board meetings.

2. Discuss, approve or deny formally protesting BLM’s Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendments for Utility-Scale Solar Energy Development. **(For Possible Action)**

Jake Tibbitts suggested that the Board comment on the inconsistencies of the BLM’s Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendments for Utility-Scale Solar Energy Development.

The Board approved item #2 and #3 together.

3. Discuss, approve or deny requesting Governor Lombardo include in his consistency review of BLM’s Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendments for Utility-Scale Solar Energy Development the inconsistencies and conflicts with Eureka County’s plans, policies and programs. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Schoenwald motioned to approve formally requesting Governor Lombardo to include in his consistency review of BLM’s Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendments for Utility-Scale Solar Energy Development, the inconsistencies and conflicts with Eureka County’s plans, policies and programs and to also allow the Chairman to sign outside of the meeting. Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

4. Discuss, approve or deny entering into a new three-year Assistance Agreement with Elko BLM with funding of up to \$90,000 for completion of weed inventory and control within the Eureka County portions of the Elko BLM District. **(For Possible Action)**

Jake Tibbitts explained that the three-year agreement will be \$30,000 a year.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve entering into a three-year Assistance Agreement with Elko BLM and funding up to \$90,000 for completion of weed inventory and control within the Eureka County portions of the Elko BLM District. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

5. Discuss and consider response on US Forest Service National Old Growth Amendment process and current draft EIS recently released for public comment. **(For Possible Action)**

Jake Tibbitts suggested commenting that the US Forest Service should leave decisions up to individual forests instead of lumping all the National Forests together. Every forest is different, especially comparing Nevada forests to east coast forests.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve commenting on the US Forest Service National Old Growth Amendment process and current draft EIS and to allow the Chairman to sign outside of the meeting. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

County Clerk Recorder, Kathy Bowling read the correspondence, Nevada Water Resources Association Raffle email, Nevada Water Resources Association Annual Conference invitation, Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board Agenda for September 18, 2024, Letter from Crystal Newton, Greenlink North Transmission Project, 90 Day Comment Period email from BLM, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection Notice of Workshop for September 23, Nevada Division of Minerals Annual Abandoned Mine Lands Program Report, UNR School of Public Health, Online MPH degree information.

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 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, hearing none he called in Eureka. Amy Jensen came before the Board because she has been hearing stories about Sheriff Jesse Watts behaving inappropriately, yelling and flipping off multiple citizens while in uniform and in county vehicles. She stated that this shows his immaturity and mental status, that he previously stated at a commission meeting about his problems with alcohol and suicide contemplations. He carries weapons and obviously feels that he is absent from any law or expected proper behavior. She believes that this county must have some standards of behavior that even elected officials representing our county should have to adhere to. She wants Sheriff Jesse Watts unprofessional behavior, and his own self admissions noted in advance of any complaints or lawsuits that may be filed in the future and for the record for the Nevada Attorney General's office and Nevada Post commissioner.

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.

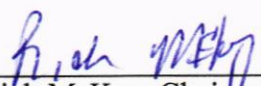
Commissioner Plaskett motioned to adjourn the meeting, Chairman McKay seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

*Prepared and submitted by Katelyn Ziemann, Deputy Clerk Recorder.*

*Approved this 15th of October 2024 by the Board of County Commissioners.*

Attest:   
Kathy Bowling, County Clerk Recorder

  
Rich McKay, Chairman