

BOARD OF EUREKA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 2, 2024 BOCC 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 July 2, 2024. Present were Chairman Rich McKay, Commissioner Marty Plaskett, District Attorney Ted Beutel, and Deputy Clerk Recorder Katelyn Ziemann filled in for County Clerk Recorder, Kathy Bowling. The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. The interactive video conferencing system was connected between Crescent Valley and Eureka for the entire meeting.

Approval of agenda: 2 items were tabled: Commissioner #2 and Treasurer #1.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve agenda with said changes. Chairman McKay seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 2-0.

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. Public Works Director, Jeb Rowley wanted to recognize Henry Buchanan for his accomplishments at the National High School Rodeo as the Ribbon Tying Champion. Jeb suggested a resolution be made to add Henry to the records of World Champions in Eureka County.

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)*

Items considered for the next agenda, Dr. Gallagher from Elko to discuss potential dental services in Eureka, Treasurer's report, the collective bargaining agreement, and the report on the time card investigation.

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 expenditures.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve expenditures of \$3,038,441.32 with no pass throughs. Chairman McKay seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 2-0.

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

The Board reviewed the current Fund Balance Report.

COMMISSIONERS

1. Presentation and recognition of the winners of the Spring Photo Contest held on the Eureka County social media site, for their outstanding photography capturing the essence of our community. **(Discussion)**

Chairman McKay read the winners of the Spring Photo Contest held on the Eureka County web site. First place was Terrilynn Brown who accepted her award in person and took a photo with Chairman McKay and Commissioner Plaskett. Second place was Marian Byler, third place was Tracy Mellard, Student winner; Darianna Lopez, and “Chairs Choice”; Danniela Lopez.

2. Discuss, approve or deny collective bargaining agreements between Eureka County and the Operator Engineers Local 3 Eureka County Sheriff Non-Sworn Employees, Sheriff Deputies and Sheriff Sergeant, Lieutenant and Communication Supervisor, beginning July 1, 2024, for two years. The tentative agreement between the parties was reached on June 24, 2024. **(For Possible Action)**

Item was tabled.

3. Discuss letters of interest received to serve on the CVMSAC, (Crescent Valley Medical Services Advisory Committee) and discuss, approve or deny modifying the resolution creating this advisory committee to include a wider pool of persons to be candidates and other changes to make the CVMSAC more workable **(For Possible Action)**

The Board received 3 letters of interest to serve on the CVMSAC, (Crescent Valley Medical Services Advisory Committee). The Board along with members from Crescent Valley decided they would make a Board of 3 with 2 alternates. They decided to table the action of approving the resolution until changes can be made and they will put it on the next meeting’s agenda.

4. Discuss, approve or deny entering an option to purchase agreement with Michael Popovitch to allow time for appraisal of APN 001-122-01. **(For Possible Action)**

Jeb Rowley explained the property is located behind the courthouse next to the generators and parking lot. Purchasing the property would allow for future growth and because of where it is located it could be very beneficial to the county.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve entering an option to purchase agreement with

Michael Popovitch to allow time for appraisal of APN 001-122-01. Chairman McKay seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 2-0.

5. Discuss, approve or deny appointing one appraiser from the list of appraisers kept by Eureka County to appraise APN 001-122-01. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve appointing one appraiser from the list of appraisers kept by Eureka County to appraise APN 001-122-01. Chairman McKay seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 2-0.

IT DEPARTMENT-Misty Rowley, IT Director

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

IT Director, Misty Rowley reported to the Board that the IT Department has continued to design and deploy the Zscaler cyber network to computers around the County. They have completed the point-to-point replacement in Crescent Valley for the Road Shop, Fire Station, Senior Center and Town Hall. The network cabinet in the Crescent Valley clinic has been installed and they are waiting on the connection.

TREASURER-Pernecia Johnson, Treasurer

1. Review Treasurer's Report for May 2024. **(Discussion)**

Item was tabled.

SHERIFF-Jesse Watts, Sheriff

1. Discuss, approve or deny credit card limit increases in July for Sheriff Watts, (increase to \$3,000.00), Lt. Umina, (increase to \$3,000.00), and Sgt. Shoaf, (increase to \$2,000.00), to attend the annual Coroners Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada July 21, 2024 to July 26, 2024. The increase would be used to pay for hotel rooms and the conference. **(For Possible Action)**

Sheriff Deputy, Miles Umina explained to the Board that the annual Coroners Conference in Las Vegas is a free event for Nevada Law Enforcement, so the credit card increase would be used to cover hotel rooms and his stay for the week.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve credit card limit increases in July for Sheriff Watts, (increase to \$3,000.00), Lt. Umina, (increase to \$3,000.00), and Sgt. Shoaf, (increase to \$2,000.00), to attend the annual Coroners Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada July 21, 2024 to July 26, 2024. The increase would be used to pay for hotel rooms and the conference. Chairman McKay seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 2-0.

LEPC-Jeb Rowley, Public Works Director

1. Discuss, approve or deny purchasing three HURST E3 battery operated extrication tools (cutter, spreader and ram) from LN Curtis, in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00, utilizing funds budgeted for capital outlay (010-039-55010-000) in the LEPC budget, as provided by the Fiscal Year 2025 SERC OPTE Grant (25-SERC-07-01). **(For Possible Action)**

Jeb Rowley explained this equipment would go in Crescent Valley and it matches the equipment in Eureka, it is needed to record and document for all the backup to SERC.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve purchasing three HURST E3 battery operated extrication tools (cutter, spreader and ram) from LN Curtis, in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00, utilizing funds budgeted for capital outlay (010-039-55010-000) in the LEPC budget, as provided by the Fiscal Year 2025 SERC OPTE Grant (25-SERC-07-01). Chairman McKay seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 2-0.

2. Review Quote 306524 from LN Curtis and consider authorizing purchase of batteries and chargers to be used with extrication equipment, in the amount of \$6,485.40, utilizing monies budgeted for capital outlay (010-040-55010-000) in the Emergency Management Fund. *Note: The extrication equipment was purchased with grant monies recently awarded through the SERC OPTE Grant.* **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve Quote 306524 from LN Curtis and consider authorizing purchase of batteries and chargers to be used with extrication equipment, in the amount of \$6,485.40, utilizing monies budgeted for capital outlay (010-040-55010-000) in the Emergency Management Fund. Chairman McKay seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 2-0.

ROAD DEPARTMENT – Jeb Rowley, Public Works Director

1. Report on Road Department projects and activities. **(Discussion)**

Jeb Rowley filled in for Raymond Hodson to give the Board a report on the Road Department activities, they have continued to water and blade roads around the county. They were reapproved for their yearly MoU to finalize with NGM on the JD Road. They are still working on hauling tires out of the landfill and they have been bringing tires down from Crescent Valley.

PUBLIC WORKS – Jeb Rowley, Public Works Director

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

Jeb Rowley reported to the Board that the buildings and grounds departments continue to get both towns ready for the 4th of July celebrations. He plans to have the Olcese contract on the next agenda. The Ruby Hill project is getting close to finishing out, the new sewer and water connections are done. They have storm drain utilities left, they anticipate 2 weeks for that project to wrap. They continue to work on projects at the airport, they did have a small landing incident with a plane that damaged some parts of the runway, so they will be working on that.

2. Discuss, approve or deny ratifying burn restrictions in Eureka County effective June 24, 2024. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve of ratifying burn restrictions in Eureka County effective June 24, 2024 to October 31st. Chairman McKay seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 2-0.

3. Discuss, approve or deny ratifying the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Sub-Sub-Grant Agreement between the Nevada Clean Energy Fund and Eureka County for a grant amount of \$52,787.92, including signing a letter to the Nevada Clean Energy Fund supporting the Eureka County Courthouse energy efficiency project and designating Jeb Rowley as the authorized representative to sign grant documents and proceed with project phases and expenditures. **(For Possible Action)**

Jeb Rowley explains Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Sub-Sub- Grant Agreement between the Nevada Clean Energy Fund and Eureka County would help pay for many issues including the windows at the Courthouse. He explained this project would help focus on many buildings around Eureka County updating and ultimately saving money in energy.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve ratifying the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Sub-Sub- Grant Agreement between the Nevada Clean Energy Fund and Eureka County for a grant amount of \$52,787.92, including signing a letter to the Nevada Clean Energy Fund supporting the Eureka County Courthouse energy efficiency project and designating Jeb Rowley as the authorized representative to sign grant documents and proceed with project phases and expenditures. Chairman McKay seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 2-0.

NATURAL RESOURCES – Jake Tibbitts, Natural Resources Manager

1. Discuss and consider submitting comments to BLM to aid in development of the Pancake Wild Horse Complex Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). **(For Possible Action)**

Hallee Dechambeau appeared in place of Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts, she explained the BLM is implementing the Pancake Wild Horse Complex Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) as a result of a lawsuit from wild horse activists. Jake would like to submit a comment that Eureka County supports wild horse management. Eureka County has interests due to social and economic benefits of multi-use, multi-land use, and the effects on Eureka citizens.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve allowing Jake Tibbitts to submit comments to BLM to aid in development of the Pancake Wild Horse Complex Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) and to allow the Chair to sign outside of the meeting. Chairman McKay seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 2-0.

2. Discuss, approve or deny out-of-state travel for Natural Resources Manager to attend the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, & Teaching (CARET) Executive Committee meeting in Providence, Rhode Island, July 16 – 18. *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 as the national CARET Vice-chair. Full expenses for travel, lodging, meals, and per diem will be paid for by CARET.* **(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) Executive Committee meeting in Providence, Rhode Island, July 16 – 18. Chairman McKay seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 2-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

Deputy Clerk Recorder, Katelyn Ziemann read the correspondence, Crescent Valley Beowawe Firewise Committee agenda. Crescent Valley Town Advisory agenda, the Eureka County Juvenile Probation department sent a Thank you card for the Boards donations to Grad Night. Nevada Water Resources Association Email, Ormat Technology Beowawe Power Plant Annual compliance report, the BLM notice of conclusion of the wild horse gather

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

Chairman reported that the Governor appointed Mike Schoenwald as the third Commissioner effective July 1, 2024, he will be sworn in and attending the next Board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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Chairman McKay called for public comment in Crescent Valley, hearing none he called in Eureka. Sheriff Jesse Watts asked for the investigation to be on the next agenda for the next meeting. He also asked for a litigation meeting with the Board of County Commissioners, the District Attorney, and outside legal council on an investigation against himself that he had been made aware of that morning. He asked for an immediate litigation meeting with the Board of County Commissioners in reference to the litigation he is going to start between himself and the County. Jeb Rowley made a public comment as a citizen of Eureka, he stated that he was aware of the investigation against Sheriff Watts and he stated that if the allegations were true, he, as a citizen, requests Sheriff Watts resignation. He asked the Board to consider requesting his resignation and if the Sheriff offers, for them to accept it. He also stated that if a litigation behind closed doors, to understand the full capacity of what is being alleged, he requests the Boards action in the matter. He also asked the Board to consider designating an official from the Sheriff's Office to represent and handle department matters until the investigation can be completed. Chairman McKay gave a public comment, he agreed to sitting down for a litigation meeting with outside legal counsel. Chairman McKay agreed to helping both situations any way that he can for the good of the Board and Eureka County.

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.

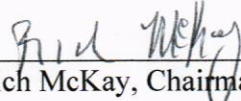
ADJOURNMENT

1. Adjournment of meeting.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to adjourn the meeting; Chairman McKay seconded the motion.
All in favor, motion carried 2-0.

Meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

*Prepared and submitted by Katelyn Ziemann, Deputy Clerk Recorder.
Approved by vote of the Board this 20th day of August, 2024.*



Rich McKay, Chairman

Attest: 

Kathy Bowling, County Clerk Recorder