

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 21, 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 June 21, 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. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. The interactive video conferencing system was connected between Crescent Valley and Eureka for the entire meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the agenda as posted; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments.

Undersheriff Tyler Thomas requested that the next agenda include an item to continue the discussion concerning patrol staff, who reside in Elko, utilizing County-owned law enforcement vehicles to commute to and from work.

There were no other public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 20, 2022: Commissioner McKay motioned to approve minutes of the April 20, 2022, meeting; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

COMPTRROLLER

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Comptroller Kim Todd. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$305,758.70 for accounts payable, and \$224,909.72 for payroll and benefit related expenses (including employee paid deductions). Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

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

NATIONAL FINALS RODEO – EUREKA COUNTY STUDENTS

Financial Assistance for Qualifying Students: Chairman Goicoechea was approached by students who had qualified for National Finals Rodeo. Five junior high students were currently competing in Perry, Georgia, at the 2022 National Junior High School Finals Rodeo scheduled June 19th-25th. With only a two week timeframe from qualifying to competing at Nationals, the students just missed the deadline for the last agenda. The high school student has a bit more time, and will compete in the 2022 National High School Finals Rodeo in Gillette, Wyoming, July 17th-23rd.

The Board has donated \$500.00 up to \$1,000.00 for rodeo students or events in the past, but this was the first time, at least in recent history, that six students would represent Eureka County at Nationals. After discussing the high cost of fuel, added cost of hauling horses, and the long distances that will be traveled, the Board agreed to grant \$5,000.00. The Chairman noted that the Eureka High School Rodeo Club had depleted its bank account to help finance the travel costs.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve a \$5,000.00 donation to the Eureka High School Rodeo Club in support of six qualifying students competing in the 2022 National Junior High and High School Rodeos; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

COMMISSIONERS

Veterinary Clinic Lease: Commissioner McKay motioned to approve signing the Extended Lease Agreement with Eureka Veterinary Clinic, LLC, for an additional two-year term through June 30, 2024, consistent with action taken by the Board on June 6, 2022. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Resignation from MCAC: After serving as a member of the Medical Clinics Advisory Committee since its inception in 2012, John Brown informed staff that he was tendering his resignation from the Committee.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to accept the resignation of John Brown as community representative on the Medical Clinics Advisory Committee since 2012; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Waiver of Facility Fee: The Board reviewed a letter from Joe Luby, co-founder of the nonprofit organization Western Spirit Foundation, requesting that facility fees be waived for use of the Eureka Fairgrounds and Fair Building for the Eureka Gold Rush Games and banquet scheduled the last weekend in June. In his letter, Mr. Luby explained that Western Spirit Foundation's focus is on creating opportunities for economic development and raising funds to provide scholarships for rural Nevada students pursuing mining related fields of study.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the request from Western Spirit Foundation to waive the facility fees for use of the Eureka Fairgrounds and Fair Building for the Eureka Gold Rush Games and banquet to be held the last weekend in June. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Proposal to Consolidate Water Systems: The Board has been considering merging the municipal water systems (Eureka Town, Crescent Valley Town, and Devil's Gate GID) and felt it was time to formally propose this action to trigger the necessary steps.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to propose an addition to Eureka County Code by adding Title 20, a plan to consolidate the County's municipal water systems; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

The Board felt scheduling a public hearing in the fall (no sooner than September) would provide the timeline needed to develop a plan, update inventories, consider rate structures, draft an ordinance, and publish the required newspaper notice.

AMBULANCE & EMS

Report on Activities: EMS Director Kenny Sanders provided a written report in his absence. There were a total of 41 runs for the month of May; 18 from the Crescent Valley station and 23 from the Eureka station.

Volunteer EMT Job Description: Mr. Sanders worked with Human Resources Director Heidi Whimple to update the job description for volunteer EMTs. Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the updated Volunteer Emergency Medical Technician (Basic & Intermediate) job description; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

SENIOR CENTERS

Update Report: Senior Center Program Director Millie Oram reported on activities at the Eureka Senior Center and Fannie Komp Senior Center. In May, Eureka served 803 meals and Crescent Valley served 735 meals. The Centers will serve steak dinners in honor of Father's Day. A total of \$4,171.86 was deposited for the month.

Nutrition Grant Subaward: Ms. Oram reported that \$1,655.00 was already received under this grant and Amendment #1 will provide an additional \$2,584.00, for a total award of \$4,239.00.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to accept Subaward Amendment #1 from Nevada Aging & Disability Services Division for Nutrition Services Grant #07-000-57-NX-22 for an additional award of \$2,548.00; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Grant Applications: Ms. Oram prepared applications for the annual nutrition grants. Commissioner McKay motioned to approve grant applications to Nevada Aging & Disability Services Division for Nutrition Services Grant #07-000-04-24-22 for home-delivered meals in the amount of \$22,659.00, and Nutrition Services Grant #07-000-07-1X-22 for congregate meals in the amount of \$20,960.00. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Hiring Freeze Waiver - Kitchen Aide: Ms. Oram requested authorization to fill a vacant casual position. Commissioner McKay motioned to waive the hiring freeze and authorize the Director to fill the casual position of Kitchen Aide at the Eureka Senior Center; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

IT DEPARTMENT

Sun Ridge Systems: IT Director Misty Rowley presented an invoice for the annual service fees for RIMS (Records & Information Management Services) at the Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve payment of Invoice #7047 from Sun Ridge Systems Inc., in the amount of \$10,392.00 for annual service fees for RIMS for the period of June 23, 2022, through June 22, 2023, to be paid with funds budgeted for machine maintenance (010-034-53010-242) in the Sheriff's budget for Fiscal Year 2023. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

RIMS Street File: Sheriff Jesse Watts explained that the RIMS street file has not been updated since it was first implemented in 2011. After speaking with a RIMS representative, he estimated it would take a staff member months to completely and accurately update the file.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve a quote from Sun Ridge Systems Inc. in the amount of \$3,200.00 for technical services necessary to reload the RIMS street file, to be paid with funds budgeted for machine maintenance (010-034-53010-242) in the Sheriff's budget for Fiscal Year 2023. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

CLERK RECORDER

2022 Primary Election Returns: The Board canvassed the returns and reviewed abstract of the vote as presented by Deputy Clerk Recorder Brandy Mahoney.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve abstract of the vote for the 2022 Primary Election held June 14, 2022; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

TREASURER

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report for May was submitted by Treasurer Pernecia Johnson, showing an ending General Fund balance of \$49,990,552.90.

COUNTY FACILITIES

Facilities Update: Public Works Director Jeb Rowley gave an update on activities at County managed facilities.

Swimming Pool: Six members of the pool staff were certified as Water Safety Instructors after 16 hours of course time on June 4th & 5th, bringing the total number of Water Safety Instructors to eight.

Opera House: The Missoula Kids' Theater performance is scheduled at 5:30 on June 25th at the Opera House. The concert for the Goldrush Games is also on the night of the 25th. The Opera House had good attendance for the performance by Two Blokes & a Squeeze Box the previous week.

Eureka Airport: A fuel delivery is scheduled at the Airport on June 28th.

Hiring Freeze Waiver - Senior Facilities Operator: The Senior Facilities Operator at the Sentinel Museum has resigned and Mr. Rowley requested authorization to fill the position. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to waive the hiring freeze and authorize the Public Works Director to fill the Senior Facilities Operator vacancy at the Sentinel Museum. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion

PUBLIC WORKS

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

Eureka Medical Clinic: Mr. Rowley explained the heating system at the medical clinic required some repairs, which involved some specialized vendors because it is a complicated and convoluted heating system that circulates water through heat loops under the street behind the clinic.

Road Department Equipment: The transport truck was delivered to Phoenix for installation of a winch rack to convert the truck into a frac tank transport. That work has been completed and pick up will be scheduled soon.

One of the 7,000 gallon water trucks suffered complete engine failure. The Senior Mechanic will travel to pick up the motor which has been delivered to Elko.

Building Maintenance: The Fairgrounds building roof has been replaced. Delta Fire Systems inspected all fire suppression systems in County buildings, including the Courthouse and Opera House, making repairs as necessary.

Water Departments: The crew has been splitting its time between the Devil's Gate water line extension and new water hookups and is currently working on a project behind the Chevron in Eureka.

Water Service Applications: Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the application for a 3/4-inch residential water meter and service at APN 007-380-52 in Devil's Gate GID District 1; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the application for a 3/4-inch residential water meter and service at APN 002-017-31 in the Town of Crescent Valley; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

CMAR Selection; The selection committee conducted interviews on June 8th for the Construction Manager at Risk for the phased street and utility project in Eureka and Crescent Valley. Q&D Construction and Sierra Nevada Construction (SNC) were interviewed and rated on their presentations, past performance, history of projects in similar size and scope, projected costs, and public outreach.

Both companies were recognized as being industry leaders, fully capable of managing the project. Sierra Nevada Construction presented a higher level of expertise with different paving and surface maintenance treatments, has previous experience on Eureka County projects, including knowledge of local material sources, and had the lowest pre-construction cost estimate of \$57,007.00 (Q&D's pre-construction cost estimate was \$67,000.00).

The selection committee recommended Sierra Nevada Construction as the Construction Manager at Risk for the Eureka County Road & Utility Improvement Project. Public Works has invited SNC to give a brief presentation at the July 6th Commission meeting and, along with Lumos & Associates, will answer questions about the project.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to accept the recommendation from the CMAR selection committee to appoint Sierra Nevada Construction as the Construction Manager at Risk for the Eureka County Road & Utility Improvement Project. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Search & Rescue UTV: Two quotes were solicited for a UTV (utility terrain vehicle) and trailer as budgeted for Search & Rescue in Fiscal Year 2023. Sonoma Cycle provided the most competitive quote.

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the quote from Sonoma Cycle for a new 2022 Can-Am Defender Max UTV and trailer for Eureka Search & Rescue for an amount not to exceed \$39,975.22 utilizing monies budgeted for capital outlay (042-140-55010-092) in the Capital Projects Fund. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Patrol Vehicle Equipment: Mr. Rowley presented quotes from McIntosh Communications Inc. for after-market equipment to be installed on two new Ford F-150 patrol vehicles. He explained that the quotes were for equipment only, which will be purchased in the current fiscal year. Installation will be done after July 1st at an approximate cost of \$8,400.00.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve equipment purchase from McIntosh Communications Inc. to outfit two new patrol vehicles utilizing monies budgeted in Fiscal Year 2022 for capital outlay (042-140-55010-092) in the Capital Projects Fund in an amount not to exceed \$28,023.00. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Report on Activities: Natural Resources Manager Jake Tibbitts reported on recent activities. The cooperating agency kickoff meeting for the Greenlink North Project Environmental Impact Statement was on June 16th, and notice was just received that the BLM has scheduled the EIS kickoff meeting for Nevada Gold Mine's Robertson Project on the Crescent Valley side of the Cortez Mine.

Meetings: Humboldt River Basin Water Authority met on June 10th and Central Nevada Regional Water Authority met on June 17th. State Engineer Adam Sullivan attended both meetings to outline priorities, making it clear that the Division will not be drafting any legislative initiatives, and will simply become involved as needed once the Legislature or other entities propose water legislation.

On June 20th, Mr. Tibbitts, Chairman Goicoechea, Jeb Rowley, and Dale Bugenig met with the State Engineer in Carson City about the County's water needs and plans to move forward with the Kober Valley water application as a municipal water source.

Groundwater Management Plan: On June 16th, the Nevada Supreme Court issued an advance opinion on the Diamond Valley Groundwater Management Plan (GMP), overturning Judge Fairman's ruling by a 4-3 split vote and reinstating the GMP. In relation to the GMP, the State Engineer has said his focus is empowering local community-based solutions. Mr. Sullivan and staff will be at the Opera House on July 1st for a collaborative meeting with affected water rights holders.

Upcoming Meetings: Upcoming meetings include the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council on June 23rd (with a field tour the day before), and the Legislative Subcommittee on Public Lands work session on June 27th (which will include work on a bill draft request on conjunctive management, the relation between groundwater pumping and surface water).

BLM August Geothermal Lease Sales: Mr. Tibbitts prepared comment letters related to Environmental Assessments for the Battle Mountain and Elko District geothermal leases offered during the BLM's geothermal lease sale in August. These EAs are an initial analysis; if any projects develop from any of the leases, a subsequent EA process will be required.

The comment letters emphasized the need for coordination with the County and its plans and policies. The letters state the need to address a broad range of issues including sage grouse, water rights, fugitive dust, impacts to County roads (not just BLM roads), socioeconomic issues, etc. Mr. Tibbitts said the Natural Resources Advisory Commission has identified areas of concern and he requested that NRAC have an opportunity to weigh in.

Commissioner McKay motioned to send comment letters to the BLM in response to Environmental Assessments for the August geothermal lease sales, and authorized the Chairman to sign the final letters outside of the meeting once NRAC's input has been incorporated. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Dingell Conservation, Management, & Recreation Act: The John D. Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019 is for “public lands...that are currently inaccessible but could provide valuable opportunities for hunting, fishing and other recreational activities.” Mr. Tibbitts explained that no action was required; he just wanted to ensure that the Board was aware of the process. The Act mandates that the BLM nominate parcels with no access or impeded access, and conduct a public process to gather additional nominations. The public nomination process will close on June 30th. Nominated lands will be placed on a priority list, due to Congress by the end of 2023, for Congress to consider access solutions and potential land re-designations.

Out-of-State Travel: Commissioner McKay motioned to approve out-of-state travel for Natural Resources Manager to attend the Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching (CARET) Western Region meeting in Concord, California, June 27th-30th. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Tibbitts is a Nevada CARET delegate appointed by the Dean of University of Nevada, Reno College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural resources (CABNR), and full expenses for this travel will be paid by CABNR.

OLCESE WASTE SERVICES

Update on Waste Services: Rick Lake, Operations Manager for Olcese Waste Services, was in attendance to give an update on residential and commercial waste collection in Eureka County. The following were added during the quarter: four 96-gallon residential services in April; two 96-gallon residential and one 3-yard commercial service in May; and two 96-gallon residential and one 3-yard commercial service in June.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from: Eureka County High School (thank you for scholarship donation); District Attorney Ted Beutel; Public Works Director Jeb Rowley; Natural Resources Manager Jake Tibbitts; Eureka County Recreation Board; County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife; Eureka Conservation District; Eureka County Television District; Nevada Gold Mines; Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority; UNR CABNR newsletter; Nevada Dept. of Transportation; Nevada Dept. of Business & Industry (2); Nevada Div. of Environmental Protection (2); US Dept. of the Interior, BLM; Senator Jacky Rosen; National Assoc. of Counties (multiple); and Governing E-new (multiple).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments.

Jeb Rowley informed that burn ban restrictions begin on June 29th, and will run concurrently with burn bans issued by Nevada Division of Forestry and BLM, Battle Mountain and Elko Districts.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Approved by vote of the Board this 6th day of September, 2022.

/s/ J.J. Goicoechea, DVM
J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman

I, Jackie Berg, Commissioner Administrative Assistant, attest that these are a true, correct, and duly approved minutes of the June 21, 2022, meeting of the Board of Eureka County Commissioners.

/s/ Jackie Berg
Jackie Berg, Commissioner Administrative Asst.

I, Kathy Bacon Bowling, Clerk Recorder of Eureka County, acknowledge and accept the attached minutes as approved by the Board of Eureka County Commissioners and attested to by the Commissioner Administrative Assistant.

/s/ Kathy Bowling
Katherine J. Bowling, Clerk