

BOARD OF EUREKA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AUGUST 20, 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 August 20, 2024. Present were Chairman Rich McKay, Vice Chair Marty Plaskett, Commissioner Mike Schoenwald, District Attorney Ted Beutel, and County Clerk Recorder Kathy Bowling. The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. the interactive video conferencing system was connected between Crescent Valley and Eureka for the entire meeting.

Agenda: Chairman McKay tabled Dental Services items 1, 2, and 3.

Commissioner Schoenwald motioned to approve agenda with changes, Commissioner Plaskett 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, hearing none 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)*

The tabled items under Dental Services will be moved to the next meeting's agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes of the July 2, 2024, July 16, 2024 and August 6, 2024 Commission meetings. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve Commission meeting minutes from July 2, 2024, July 16, 2024 and August 6, 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 expenditures.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve expenditures of \$1,035,424.18 with the pass throughs of Nevada State Controller School Tax of \$93,832.93 and Washoe County Crime Lab of \$215.00. 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.

3. Discuss, approve or deny a permanent credit card increase for Kim Todd in the amount of \$2,000.00. *Note: The Recreation Board has a monthly website fee that needs to be charged to a county employees credit card. This increase will help cover this monthly expense.* **(For Possible Action)**

Kim Todd explained that the recreation board has a monthly charge for the website and because Dana is no longer the tourism director, Kim will use her county credit card to pay for that monthly charge. Kim already has a few monthly subscriptions for the county that her card pays for, so the increase will help cover it all.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve a permanent credit card increase for Kim Todd in the amount of \$2,000.00, Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

COMMISSIONERS

1. Discuss, approve or deny changing the BOCC meeting dates for October and November to accommodate the 2024 General Election and the Canvass of the Election. *Kathy* **(For Possible Action)**

County Clerk Recorder Kathy Bowling explained that the 2024 General Election falls on a regular scheduled Commission meeting day, and by statute the Board must canvas the Election return 10 days after the election landing on November 15. The options would be to have 3 meetings in October, 2 in November but the last one would be 1 week before the December 3 meeting. Kim Todd explained regarding vouchers, she would still cut checks, they would just be a ratify approval at the next meeting. The Board decided that they would have the regular 2 meetings in

October and cancel the November 5th and 19th meetings, and schedule a special meeting on November 15th.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to cancel the November 5th and 19th meetings and schedule a special meeting on the 15th. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

- 2** Discuss, approve or deny accepting an offer from the current owner to Eureka County, for a 60-day exclusive option to purchase 301 Ruby Hill Avenue in Eureka, Nevada. **(For Possible Action)**

The owner of 301 Ruby Hill Avenue in Eureka, Nevada has agreed to give the county 60 days to report and appraise the property before they accept offers from anyone else. The Board agrees that due to the location and owning property around it, this property would be a good buy for the County.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve accepting an offer from the current owner to Eureka County, for a 60-day exclusive option to purchase 301 Ruby Hill Avenue in Eureka, Nevada. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

- 3** Discuss, approve or deny authorizing the Public Works Director to act on behalf of the Board to proceed with completing all appropriate paperwork to accept the option to purchase, obtain an appraisal and commit not more than \$1,000.00 in refundable earnest money to open escrow. **(For Possible Action)**

Due to the timeline being tight and the 60-day due date potentially conflicting with the rescheduled meetings in November the Board decided to delegate Rich McKay to assist in the process. This would allow Rich to sign anything necessary outside of meetings.

Commissioner Schoenwald motioned to approve authorizing the Public Works Director to act on behalf of the Board to proceed with completing all appropriate paperwork to accept the option to purchase, obtain an appraisal and commit not more than \$1,000.00 in refundable earnest money to open escrow and delegated Rich McKay to work with the Public Works Director in the 60-day process and a purchase price up to \$60,000 for the property. Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

- 4** Review and discuss surplus property list (vehicles, equipment, etc.) prepared by Public Works and, pursuant to Eureka County Code, Title 3, Chapter 20, Section 130 "Disposal of surplus property," consider declaring all or some of the items to be surplus property and authorize the Public Works Director to move forward with disposal in accordance with one or more of the methods outlined in the Internal Control Policy (Title 3 of County Code). *Jeb Rowley* **(For Possible Action)**

The Surplus Auction will be September 7 at 9 a.m. at the Eureka County Laydown Yard. The auction will include items from Eureka County as well as the Eureka County School District.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the surplus property list prepared by Public Works and declare all the items to be surplus property and authorize the Public Works Director to move forward with disposal in accordance with one or more of the methods outlined in the Internal Control Policy (Title 3 of County Code). Commissioner Schoenwald 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 Eureka Senior Center had 745 meals between both homebound and in person. The Crescent Valley Fannie Komp Senior Center had 732 meals. She also reported that she received an acceptance letter for the 2 new vans grant, she said it will be on the next meeting's agenda.

DENTAL SERVICES–

- 1. Discuss the history of the private dental practice at the Eureka Clinic, where the practice, including the client list and charts, and all the business's perishable and consumable inventory, is privately held, and most of that business's fixed inventory is also privately owned, and is routinely sold to the next available dentist as an ongoing business concern while it is located in a public building. Note: Dr. Shannon Sena may join the Board for this discussion and the action items that follow by phone. (For Discussion Only)**

Item was tabled.

- 2. Discuss the format of fee schedules or stipends used in the past to attract and maintain private providers of services to the Eureka Clinic, and discuss, approve or deny whether to negotiate and enter a similar format with Dr. Shannon Sena to guarantee a continuation of dental services at the Eureka Clinic. (For Possible Action)**

Item was tabled.

- 3. Discuss whether to proceed with funding of improvements and updates to the Eureka Clinic dental practice space. (For Possible Action)**

Item was tabled.

AMBULANCE & EMS- Kenny Sanders, EMS Director

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

EMS Director, Kenny Sanders reported for the month of July they had a total of 36 calls for service; 14 were from Eureka and 22 were from Crescent Valley. 1 transport to Battle Mountain, 8 transports to Elko, 3 transports to Ely, 1 to Reach Air and 1 to MedEx Air. They have a State Board meeting for medications set for September 6. The EMS department was on standby at the Eureka Fair and the High School Rodeo. They put on a CPR class for the Eureka County school bus drivers.

HUMAN RESOURCES – Tasha Dunlap, HR Director

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

Human Resources Director Tasha Dunlap and Comptroller Kim Todd reported to the Board the open jobs the county still has; Mechanic I & II for Public Works, Deputy District Attorney, Deputy Sheriff, Telecommunicator, volunteer EMT and volunteer Search and Rescue. Tasha is working on the updates for the POOLPACT state and federal regulations for the personnel policy.

2. Discuss, approve or deny a proposed new Detective job description for the Sheriff's Office. *Note: This job description requires review and approval from the following: Operator Engineers Local 3, PERS Police/Fire Board, PERS Regular Board. It will not become effective until all approvals have been obtained. (For Possible Action)*

Comptroller Kim Todd explained this is the job description they have been working on since March and that the Union has approved the job description. PERS and the Police Fire Board will meet in October to finalize the approval.

Commissioner Schoenwald motioned to approve the proposed new Detective job description for the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion, all in favor motion carried 3-0.

3. Discuss, approve or deny a Hiring Freeze Waiver for Sheriff Detective, which was budgeted and approved for FY 2025. *Note: Once the job description has been approved by all parties this position will be advertised for the minimum 14 days before a hiring decision can be made. (For Possible Action)*

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

CLERK RECORDER-Kathy Bowling, Clerk Recorder

1. Discuss, approve or deny ratifying an additional \$500.00 one-time credit card increase for the Clerk Recorder in August 2024, to cover costs for commission meetings. **(For Possible Action)**

Clerk Recorder, Kathy Bowling explained that she got her credit card limit increased to purchase her new desk, but also needs another increase to cover the costs for commission meetings for the month of August.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve ratifying an additional \$500.00 one-time credit card increase for the Clerk Recorder in August 2024, to cover costs for commission meetings. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor motion carried 3-0.

SHERIFF-Tyler Thomas, Undersheriff

1. Discuss, approve or deny the purchase of a 20' Conex storage container, to provide extra storage for supplies at the Crescent Valley substation, in the amount not to exceed \$3,800.00 utilizing funds budgeted in capital outlay account (010-034-55010-000). **(For Possible Action)**

Undersheriff, Tyler Thomas explained the quote of \$3,800.00 for the 20' Conex storage container is from Eureka's local vendor. He came to the meeting with 3 quotes from different vendors, but decided to go with the local vendor as the cost was comparative.

Commissioner Schoenwald motioned to approve the purchase of a 20' Conex storage container, to provide extra storage for supplies at the Crescent Valley substation, in the amount not to exceed \$3,800.00 utilizing funds budgeted in capital outlay account (010-034-55010-000). Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

2. Discuss, approve or deny out of state travel for Sheriff Watts and/or a designee, and another county employee to travel to Salt Lake City, Utah to assess vehicles for purchase, budgeted for in the 2024/2025 Budget. **(For Possible Action)**

Under Sheriff Thomas explained that they have an officer on light duty who will be able to travel with David Jones to Salt Lake City, Utah to assess used vehicles for purchase.

Commissioner Schoenwald motioned to approve out of state travel for a Sheriff's Office representative and another county employee to assess vehicles for purchase in Salt Lake City, Utah budgeted for in the 2024/2025 Budget.

STEEL RAINE –

1. Discuss, approve or deny a request, by Steel Raine, to waive the fees for the use of the Opera House to host the Election Debate, held on September 7, 2024. **(For Possible Action)**

Steele Raine came before the Board to ask for the rental fees be waived for the Opera House to host the Election Debate. He has everything set up and ready to be video recorded and moderated. The Election Debate will be September 7, 2024, the School Board candidates will start at 6 p.m. and the Commissioner Candidates will be at 7 p.m. He said each candidate will have 3 minutes opening statement and a 3-minute closing statement.

Commissioner Schoenwald motioned to approve Steele Raines request of waiving the rental fees for the Opera House on September 7th, 2024. Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion, all in favor motion carried 3-0.

COUNTY FACILITIES – Jeb Rowley, Public Works Director

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

Jayne Halpin reported for Public Works Director Jeb Rowley, the crews worked at getting the softball and baseball fields ready for the VFW tournament. The crews also worked out at the Fair Grounds getting it ready for the Fair and High School Rodeo. He reported that they got rewarded some grant money for projects, the 11th Street emergency flood repairs and a grant from FEMA for other emergency measures. Curb and sidewalk repairs should be finishing up on Ruby Hill Avenue and they will start paving September 3rd to the 7th. They also are patching and paving Eagle Way. The water crew has been working on the water meter pits for all the new purchased meters in both Crescent Valley and Devils Gate.

PUBLIC WORKS – Jeb Rowley, Public Works Director

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

Jayne Halpin included the Public Works report with the County Facilities report.

2. Discuss, approve or deny a 3/4-inch residential water meter and service application to serve APN# 007-380-86 located in Devil's Gate GID District #1. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve a 3/4-inch residential water meter and service application to serve APN# 007-380-86 located in Devil's Gate GID District #1. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor motion carried 3-0.

3. Discuss, approve or deny a 3/4-inch residential water and sewer service application for APN# 001-102-15 in the Town of Eureka. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve a 3/4-inch residential water and sewer service application for APN# 001-102-15 in the Town of Eureka. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor motion carried 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 he has been working closely with other counties, some state agencies and the department of Ag on the preliminary draft management allocations for the greater sage grouse plan. The Central Nevada Regional Water Authority met on the new applications for the groundwater rights retirement in Diamond Valley. Jake also reported that a Butterfly Bee Insect Conservation Society and the center for Biological Diversity out of Oregon sued the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service over the spraying of Mormon Crickets and grasshoppers on public land. This will all determine what treatment plans will look like for next year; he will keep the Board updated as the court case continues. The Rodent Board will be meeting the following day at 3 p.m. to continue to make progress on the cost share reimbursement.

2. Discuss and consider sending a letter to Governor Lombardo supporting funding of the Nevada Water Initiative for the 2025-2027 biennium budget. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve sending a letter to Governor Lombardo supporting the funding of the Nevada Water Initiative for the 2025-2027 biennium budget. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

3. Discuss, approve or deny accepting additional award of \$125,000 from BLM for the Eureka County Fuels and Defensible Space Project (Assistance Agreement L22AC00655) for completion of fuels reduction projects on Whistler Mountain. **(For Possible Action)**

Jake Tibbitts explained that Eureka County has a subcommittee through NDOW, this \$125,000 award will cover contracts costs for projects like: spraying cheat grass and a tree thinning project to help in crease water flow and wild fire prevention.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to accept the BLM award of \$125,000 for the Eureka County Fuels and Defensible Space Project (Assistance Agreement L22AC00655) for completion of fuels reduction projects on Whistler Mountain. 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; a letter from Connie Hicks, Eide Bailly Audit Letter, McEwen's Gold Bar Mine Family and Friends Day Invitation for August 22, 2024 at the Fairgrounds. Diamond Valley Rodent Control District Agenda for August 21, 2024, Lt. Governor Stavros Anthony dinner invite on August 21, Nevada Water Resources Association September 11 Marlette Lake water system tour, Nevada Water Resources Association Fall Symposium Workshop Registration information, BLM Ely District Announcement of Public Forum for Samantha Solar Project.

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, hearing none in both Crescent Valley and Eureka he moved 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)**

The dentist agenda items will be on the next meetings agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

1. Adjournment of meeting.

Commissioner Schoenwald motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

*Prepared and submitted by Deputy Clerk Recorder, Katelyn Ziemann.
Approved this 3rd of September, 2024.*

Chairman, Rich McKay

ATTEST: _____
County Clerk Recorder, Kathy Bowling