

**IN A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY COMMISSION HELD ON JANUARY 4, 2021 IN THE COUNTY LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM IN ELY, NEVADA**

The Following Were Present:

County Commission  
Richard Howe, Chairman  
Travis Godon, Vice-Chairman  
Ian Bullis, Commissioner  
Shane Bybee, Commissioner  
Laurie L. Carson, Commissioner  
Nichole Baldwin, Clerk of the Board

County Officials:

Bryan Pyle, Deputy DA  
Elizabeth Frances, Finance Director  
Jennifer Farnworth, IT Specialist  
Mike Wheable, District Attorney

Also Present:

George Chachas, George Town Media  
Isaac Bullis

Present via Zoom:

Geri Wopschall, Marietta Henry, Lori Romero (Library Director), JOIN Office, Michelle Beecher (City of Ely), N. Baker, Mary Kerner, Burton Hilton (Assessor), Gary Perea, Caroline McIntosh, NACO, Jared Bybee (BLM), Lee Bonner (NDOT)

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Chairman Richard Howe called the Special Meeting order at 9:34 am and Finance Director Elizabeth Frances was asked to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE/SILENT INVOCATION**

This was duly observed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. George Chachas mentioned Governor Sisolak's directive to wear a face covering in a public space or where the public has access. He further mentioned Commissioner Bullis who has attended 21 meetings and has refused to wear a mask. He reminded the Board that the rest of the Commission has to abide by those directives as well. He noted the business community is frustrated with having to abide by these mandates while being led by public officials who refuse to comply. He brought up the Regional Planning Commission and no new members being brought forward. He wants information on the Justice Center Complex and jail expansion project and wanted to know if it is over a million dollars over budget, or is that just a rumor he heard? If the Building Inspector is a part of that, the taxpayers deserve the truth and accountability. At the Ely Municipal Utility Board Meeting, member Jim Alworth announced that the golf course has used approximately 1,011 gallons of water it has not paid for. The City has a record of improper billing as he is a victim. In a previous meeting, it was brought up that duct tape was found in the water meter. He asserted that fraud is occurring and he commanded the Board to address these outstanding issues. Time was called.

**A. COUNTY COMMISSION:**

**1. County Commission**

**\*a) Discussion/For Possible Action: Selection of County Commission Chairman for 2021**

Commissioner Travis Godon nominated Richard Howe as Chairman and Commissioner Carson seconded the nomination, which passed.

**\*b) Discussion/For Possible Action: Selection of County Commission Vice Chairman for 2021**

Commissioner Ian Bullis nominated Commissioner Travis Godon as the Vice Chairman. Commissioner Bybee seconded the nomination and it passed.

**\*c) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of County Commission Liaison Appointments for 2021**

Chairman Howe called up this item and asked the Board how they felt about their liaison appointments. Commissioner Bybee was good with his appointments. Commissioner Carson asked to acquire Emergency Management and to get rid of LEPC, which Commissioner Bullis accepted. The remaining Commissioners were satisfied with their appointments. Commissioner Carson moved to approve this item with the changes as noted. Commission Vice Chair Godon seconded and the motion passed.

**\*d) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of Resolution 2021-01, a resolution providing for the adoption of an amended inter-local cooperative agreement and authorizing membership thereby to the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority. Commissioner Shane Bybee**

Commissioner Bybee noted a couple of new counties and cities were added to NNRDA, which meant the contract needed updated. Commissioner Bybee moved for approval, Commissioner Carson seconded the motion and it passed.

**\*e) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval to appoint Gary Perea and Jeremy Drew as points of contact for the Pine Valley Water Supply Project located in Iron and Beaver Counties, Utah. Commission Chairman Richard Howe**

Chairman Howe spoke to Gary Perea about this, who was in on the fight against SNWA. The Chairman felt Gary and Jeremy would be excellent people to have as points of contact on this project. Commissioner Carson moved to approve, Commissioner Bybee seconded the motion and it passed.

**B. ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

**1. Nichole Baldwin, County Clerk**

**\*a) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of requests for re-appointment to County Advisory Boards or Town Councils:**

**Regional Transportation Commission**

**Wayne Cameron**

**Public Lands Users Advisory Committee**

**William Wilson  
Craig Baker  
Mark Tefft**

**Hunting/Fishing  
Livestock grazing  
Outdoor recreation**

**Local Emergency Planning Committee**

**Brett North  
Bill Calderwood  
Robert Winder  
Marian Perez**

**WPC Fire Chief  
Public Works  
WP Ministerial Association  
Duckwater EMS**

**Tourism and Recreation Board**

**Marietta Henry  
Caroline McIntosh**

**Local motel owner  
Local commercial interests**

**Audit Committee**

**Mike Wheable  
Art Olson**

**Elected Official  
At large member**

**Baker Area Citizens Advisory Board**

**David Kuiper  
Elizabeth Woolsey**

**Golf Advisory Board**

**Stanley Roberts**

**At large member**

Clerk Nichole Baldwin explained that these have been advertised for several weeks and the people under this item were previous members who are seeking reappointment. Clerk Baldwin read the list of names into the record. Commissioner Bullis moved for approval, Commission Vice Chair Godon seconded the motion and it passed.

**\*b) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of the request for resignation by Johnathan Dishong from the Ruth Town Council**

Commissioner Godon move to accept the resignation. Commissioner Carson seconded the motion and it passed.

**\*c) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of the request for appointment by Gene Ockert to sit on the Ruth Town Council**

Commissioner Bybee moved to approve this appointment and added that Mr. Ockert was previously on Ruth Town Council and contributed a lot there. Commissioner Bullis seconded the motion and it passed.

**\*d) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval to post position for Deputy County Clerk (grade 123. Step X at \$17.13/hour) immediately due to an unexpected recent resignation. County Clerk Nichole Baldwin and Human Resources Director Tim Bunch**

Clerk Nichole Baldwin provided a brief history of changes in her office since 2019 which outlined the increase in workload demands. She humbly asked the Board to approve this item to allow her to re-fill the very vital position in her office that is vacant.

Commissioner Bullis moved for approval. Commissioner Carson seconded the motion and it passed. The Clerk thanked the board for this action.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. George Chachas noted that he had his hand up earlier during the previous item concerning advisory board members, but was not called on. He stated that he put in for the Regional Transportation Commission and Tourism and Recreation Board position, but was not put on the agenda. He resented the fact that he was cut out and the Board is selectively enforcing the law. Mr. Chachas brought up track fee monies that went missing while Commissioner Bybee sat on the Railroad Foundation. The Chairman warned his that is a City issue. Mr. Chachas demanded answers to prior issues brought up to the Board and will no longer accept the cold shoulder he's been getting. The parking lot at the Bristlecone Convention Center does not meet ADA standards. This has already been addressed per the Chairman. City Planning has failed to address city and county code violations and he wants to know how many discrepancies he has to bring up to the Board. He showed a photo of service being installed at the corner of Ogden and Orson at 11.5 feet from the fence line, which does not meet code. The Building Inspector has still not given him a building permit that he has applied for. Mr. Chachas continued that the Senior Center sidewalk does not meet ADA requirements. The Community Choir building also does not meet standards. Mr. Chachas demanded action. Time was called.

**County Commission**

**\* Adjournment**

Commissioner Bybee moved to adjourn. Commissioner Bullis seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 9:56 am.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHITE PINE COUNTY  
STATE OF NEVADA

BY:

Richard Han  
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
WPC CLERK OF THE BOARD