

IN A REGULAR MEETING OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY COMMISSION HELD ON JANUARY 13, 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 (Via Zoom)
Shane Bybee, Commissioner
Laurie L. Carson, Commissioner
Nichole Baldwin, Clerk of the Board

County Officials:

Bryan Pyle, Deputy DA
Sheriff Scott Henriod
Bill Calderwood, Public Works Director
Brett North, WPCFD Fire Chief
Elizabeth Frances, Finance Director
Mike Johnson, IT Specialist
Mike Wheable, District Attorney
Lori Romero, Library Director

Also Present:

Bruce Eldridge, Library Brd. Of Trustees
George Chachas, George Town Media
Kathy Brumley, Library Brd. Of Trustees
Darwin Kent Lynskey, WP Corral Assoc.

Present via Zoom:

Geri Wopschall, Marietta Henry, Burton Hilton (WPC Assessor), Jeremy Drew (RCI), Catherine Bakaric (WPC Treasurer), Gary Perea, JOIN Office, John Snow, Bryane Goeringer, Marietta Henry, Caroline McIntosh, Brett with BCT, Tim Bunch (HR Director), Jared Bybee (BLM), Jason Bailey, Ken Gallegos, Marcie Ryba, KL Kreizenbeck, E. Calderwood (Finance Office), Jennifer Farnsworth (IT), Mary Kerner, Tabatha Hamilton (Finance Office/EMS), Michelle Beecher (City of Ely), Terri Borghoff, Bethany Coca (Finance Office), TM Renner, Mike Wheable (District Attorney), Desiree Barnson (Social Services Director), and others.

Chairman Richard Howe called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Sheriff Scott Henriod led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE/SILENT INVOCATION

This was duly observed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bruce Eldridge, Chairman of the Library Board of Trustees, addressed the Board and asked them to support the item to hire a Children’s Librarian. The Library staff are running lean and have been stretched even thinner during this recent time. They have reduced services and staff has been missing lunches and breaks to serve the public. This position fosters early literacy in young children and is largely supported by parents in the area.

Kathy Brumley, member of the Library Board of Trustees, is here to support the item for a Children's Librarian. She was an elementary teacher for 33 years. All of us had someone in our life that has influenced our love of reading. Teachers teach, but don't have time to teach love of reading and various things a Children's Librarian can do for kids. Kids have lost a year of outside influence. The Children's Librarian helps kids love to read. "Those that don't read are just like those people that cannot read," was a quote she provided to the Board. She desired for local children to have a passion for reading.

George Chachas spoke on item 1C1, the proposed ordinance that has no backup material. He noted that backup material was handed out this morning. Item 1G1 regarding the Ely Corral Association should be granted by the City Council if improvements are on the city portion; *they* need to grant permission. He does not see where the county has authority to grant this. Resolution 2021-02 is concerning water rights and he warned the Board not to sell county water rights; lease them or allow free usage if it benefits business or industry that impacts the county. He's received written statements regarding many issues he's brought before the Board before; he wants equal protection under the law. At an Ely Municipal Utility Board meeting held December 10, 2020, member Alworth told about a large past due bill for the golf course for 1,100 gallons of water. Has that been paid? Commissioner Bybee is accountable for approximately 15 years of missing track rental fees at the Railroad. We need accountability! He reminded the Board that the county needs to solicit for a fair and balanced newspaper. The current one advertises for businesses, but doesn't perform basic functions such as printing legal notices. Chairman Howe warned Mr. Chachas to not talk about a private business in this meeting. Mr. Chachas asked how many discrepancies or deficiencies he has to bring up before the county does anything about the Building Inspector who selectively enforces the law under the color of law? What he has found, he will file as complaints against this Board. He's cited numerous cases and provided pictures and no one wants to see them. He wants his building permit! Time was called.

1. NOTICE OF TIMED AGENDA ITEMS:

The Chairman temporarily recessed the regular County Commission Meeting at 9:13 am for a regular meeting of the White Pine County Fire Commission.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting of the White Pine County Fire Commission to reconvene the Regular County Commission meeting.

B. 9:15 A.M. WHITE PINE TOURISM AND RECREATION BOARD

***1) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval to fill the vacant seat on the White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board representing hotels with one of two applicants:**

- **Bryane Goeringer, previously held this seat**
- **George Chachas**

George Chachas was given a chance to address the Board regarding his application. He noted his letter dated 12/30/2020 was timely filed with the Clerk and provided an application today, which was handed out at the beginning of the meeting. The other applicant

does not attend meetings regularly. That Board needs people who live here and have skin in the game. Others are in the same boat. He has experience to move forward.

Bryane Goeringer via Zoom addressed the Board. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve for the last 4 years on Tour and Rec and he's asking for another term. He feels that Board has made great progress in tourism locally. He lives in the county and has been skiing in Utah this winter. He still owns the Jailhouse and that qualifies him to hold this seat.

Commissioner Bybee moved to reappoint Bryane Goeringer to the vacant seat on the Tourism and Recreation Board. Commissioner Ian Buillis seconded the motion. Motion passed and Bryane Goeringer was reappointed.

C. 9:30 A.M. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE

1) Discussion/First Reading: of proposed Ordinance 517, an Ordinance amending Title 2 of the White Pine County Code, creating standards for recruitment and application to boards, commissions, committees, or other bodies whose members are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. Nichole Baldwin, County Clerk & Bryan Pyle, Deputy DA

Bryan Pyle, Deputy DA, explained that in our existing ordinance for advisory boards, nothing was there for statutorily created board such as Tour and Rec. This does not bump up against a statute; this makes the appointment process uniform across the board. Everyone will have to fill out the same application and follow the same appointment process. Commissioner Carson will provide Clerk Nichole Baldwin with Wildlife Board requirements. Per DA Pyle, right now it is a free for all when it comes to applying for seats and this simplifies the process. This is a good idea per Commissioner Carson. George Chachas was allowed to speak and he does not see a need for this. If we read the NRS regarding the Tour and Rec Board, requirements exist for members and none of that is being adhered to. He still does not know the requirements to be appointed to a board in White Pine County; is it to be a good ole boy? This ordinance will come back for approval at a later time.

D. 10:00 A.M. NATURAL RESOURCES

1) Discussion/Information only regarding the White Pine County Natural Resource and Public Land Issues Tracking List and Status of RCI's Budget through 6 months. Jeremy Drew, Project Manager, RCI

Jeremy Drew from RCI, via Zoom, provided a budget update. Pine and Wah Wah Valley scoping was open in Aug. and a cooperative agency MOU is in place. He plans to participate in a meeting on Jan. 26th concerning that. Mr. Drew has not heard anything from the Division of Water Resources on their decision to designate water basins. There is a new acting State Engineer, Adam Sullivan, he advised. In Dec., the Nevada Economic Assessment Project from UNR was initiated and there is an open public survey available he will be sure to share with this Board. He added that Bald Mountain Mine has a project starting up that is requesting public comment on an environmental impact statement and he suggested the County as becoming a cooperative agency via an MOU by Jan. 14th. The Chairman authorized Mr. Drew to go forward with that so he will send an email to the project manager and something will come back for ratification in the near future. In regards to the budget, he noted the contract established in June 2020 which designated \$25,000 as a starting point, with \$25,000 in

contingency not knowing what might come up this year. He has exhausted funds. Phase 1 monies were used to cover meetings and comment letters. He's asking to reprogram the rest what is left in Phase 2 into Phase 1. Other issues will likely pop up this year, which he listed. The contract amendment is seeking to pull more contingency funds to cover those items.

***2) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of two amended (Phase 1 and 2) and one new (Phase 4) Task Order Amendments for RCI. Jeremy Drew, Project Manager, RCI**

Via Zoom, Mr. Drew from RCI recapped his request, which is to amend the budget for Phase 1 to carry him through the end of June for meetings and comment letters while Phase 2 is complete. He explained that Phase 4 covers the Robinson Mine draft EIS comments with a request of \$1,400. Commissioner Godon moved to approve this item and Commissioner Carson seconded the motion, which passed.

***3) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of a letter supporting the N-4 Grazing Board's request for emergency horse gathers in the Chin Creek Allotment Area. Jeremy Drew, Project Manager, RCI**

Mr. Drew advised that in Dec. we received a carbon copy of a plea to resolve the wild horse issue in the Chin Creek area. The issue is broader than the Chin Creek area. This letter enforces the N-4 plea, and also says the same issues are playing out across the county. There is immediate need to take action to reduce impacts to rangeland resources and water resources from wild horse over population. Commissioner Carson complimented the letter and thought we ought to include our district BLM manager, which will show even more support than Commissioner Godon's letter previously discussed. Commissioner Godon moved for approval. Commissioner Carson made a second and the motion passed.

***4) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of a comment letter regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Robinson Mine Expansion. Jeremy Drew, Project Manager, RCI**

Frederick Partey, Environmental Manager from Robinson Mine was here to ask the county to write a letter to support the mine expansion. They are relying on this Board to continue to support mining in our community. Chairman Howe asked about the mine life, which has been extended to 2028 due to the expansion. Mr. Drew via Zoom appreciated Mr. Partey's comments. Mr. Drew was allowed to go through the contents of the letter since it is not ready today. Some key points were that the Commission fully supports KGHM Robinson Mine and this proposed action (alternative A). The county further supports the extension of mine life extended by 4 years to 2028, including the resumption of mining in the Liberty pit along with associated expansion and dewatering, construction of the King waste rock dump, and modification of the Drew Bosch tailing storage facility. He noted alternative B that may be of interest to the county that would provide a smaller footprint; the King waste rock dump would be reduced with some rock going into the Ruth East pit. Mr. Drew mentioned County Road 44A is currently closed, but the King waste rock dump would cover about .2 miles of that road. County Road 44A would be reopened with impacts reduced. Mr. Drew felt Robinson Mine is doing what they need to do to follow regulations in regards to sage grouse

and we should commemorate that in our EIS comments as well as the steps they have taken concerning fire management in the area.

Mr. Parthey thanked Mr. Drew for the letter. Mr. Parthey advised that alternative B is preferred by the mine because it will use Ruth East backfill and reduce the King waste rock facility which will spare impact on County Road 44A. Has noted an agreement with the county where if there is an emergency, mining will stop, allowing the road to be used. He added that the mine created a separate road two years ago for this purpose and the Commission had come to see that. Mr. Parthey assured the Board that if they touch Co. Rd. 44A, they will make sure it is brought back as promised. In addition to 44A being in the footprint, the Ruth GID pipeline goes through the same area and the mine does not want to relocate that pipeline for the 4th time. The Shoshone Tribe has a spiritual center west of Co. Rd. 44A resulting in multiple reasons to go with alternative B. Mr. Parthey has started working with ranchers to get sage grouse information and that will be put in the EIS. Mr. Drew appreciated Mr. Parthey's feedback and the Board thanked both gentlemen.

Commissioner Carson moved for approval of this letter. Commissioner Godon made a second with alternative B being emphasized. Commissioner Bybee stated that he does not want to provide lukewarm support; our relationship with the mine is priceless and he noted being in full support. Mr. Parthey knows he can count on this Board for their support as shown in the past and he thanked the Board. Deputy DA Bryan Pyle noted the motion should incorporate the discussion. Commissioner Carson restated the motion emphasizing alternative B, fire suppression efforts, and support of the mine itself and the working relationship. Commissioner Godon amended his second and the motion passed.

Chairman Richard Howe called for a break at 10:31 am. The meeting reconvened at 10:40 am.

E. 10:30 A.M. JUSTICE CENTER PROJECT

1) Discussion/Update on progress with the Justice Center Project including a financial update. Elizabeth Frances, Finance Director & CORE Construction

Finance Director Elizabeth Frances advised the Board that the Justice Center Project is proceeding very well as she provided handouts. She commended CORE and Lombard Architecture for doing a good job working with the county on this project.

Brandon Whipple from CORE was invited to address the Board and he thanked Director Frances for her kind words. He thanked the Board for their support and how well the project has gone. He invited the Board to come see the building before things are covered up. The jail cells are built in the pods and doors are being done now. Plumbing and mechanical systems are in place and painting has begun. He reported they are ahead of schedule on purpose with a plan to move the Sheriff's Department out in July to allow for remodeling in the existing building. The courthouse is painted at 50%. Tomorrow, bullet resistant panels will be installed at transaction windows. Grid ceilings and electronics will be installed in March. Later this month, hand rails will be installed and the elevator will be installed at the end of February or beginning of March. Metal panels will be done this winter on the outside of the building. In response to a query, 40 people have been working on the interior comprised 5-6 different companies. They are progressing really well and will be done before October. Chairman Howe advised that he tried to get the word out about CORE

supporting our community and offered what they've done with the Aquatic Center as an example and he asked Mr. Whipple to do the same. CORE has been donating to local causes including the fire department.

Commissioner Carson noted offices have already picked out furniture and things are moving along with safety and quality control having been awesome. Financials on CORE's side are good; they are not over budget. Funds are healthy and they keep trying to trim expenses where they can. Ken Gallegos from Lombard Architecture, via Zoom, advised the Board that he is currently programming another courthouse and using features from this project for that. He gets nervous when he does not get calls from contractors, but CORE contacts him once every 2 weeks because they are doing a good job.

Director Frances noted an outstanding job has been done between the architect and the project manager. She referenced a handout which showed that \$19 million in local funds, the \$5 million state appropriation, and the \$1 million Red Leg Loan has been utilized up to this point and she is ready to start tapping into the final loan of \$9.1 million from the USDA. She reported to have spent \$10,705,000 on construction costs for the courthouse portion and \$1.4 mill for non-construction costs (architect, permitting, etc). For the jail and public safety building, \$7.2 million for construction costs and \$699,000 for non-construction related costs have been expended. A total of \$20,126,623 has been utilized since the inception of this project. The original budget was \$34.4 million, therefore they are still on target to come in on that amount. A possible exception, she noted, was a request for \$160,000 for security upgrades and she plans to value engineer that on the backside. She disclosed professional services to assist county staff in the following amounts that were authorized by this Board: an owner's representative for \$102,000, financial consulting for the debt service of \$35,000, and one maintenance worker for the duration of the project for \$78,000. Chairman Howe hoped this quieted the rumors and noted the hard work of everyone involved. Everyone is staying within budget and he appreciated Director Frances presenting this update and she was commended as well. Commissioner Carson noted retired Judge Papez was able to tour the new building and made comments that it was beautiful and almost made him want to go back to work. Commissioner Carson thanked the Public Works Department for their diligence and good working relationship with CORE. Commissioner Bybee requested to tour the building today at 3pm.

F. 10:45 A.M. RUNWAY 12/31 AT YELLAND FIELD

1) Presentation/Discussion Only from Armstrong Consultants regarding crack sealing runway 12/31 at Yelland Field. Chris Knox, Armstrong Consultants

Chris Knox from Armstrong Consultants, via Zoom, gave a background for this item. In 2015, his company completed an update and as a part of an FAA requirement, Armstrong Consultants were tasked to identify any non-standards or less than ideal geometry at the airport. The intersection between runway 18/36 and the crosswind runway, runway 12/30, was noted as not being standard per the guidance from FAA. A plan was developed to correct that issue, and then a higher priority project came up after that so they are circling back to this. He described several conversations with the FAA about this and noted the backup material. The solution includes shifting the crosswind runway approximately 800 feet to the west and connecting taxiways to tie the two runways together. This fix will decrease risk of planes running into each other or taking off and landing at the same time. In 2019, this began

again and funding is required to get it done. He and Lance went to the FAA and ultimately it was decided that this project was not eligible for funding and the FAA deemed the entire runway as being not eligible for funding. He and Lance felt it was eligible. The short-term outcome was a benefit to the airport, which was to resurface the existing runway 12/30 to put life back in the pavement. It's getting to the point where severe cracking is being seen, the surface is graveling and marks are faded. He met with the Airport Advisory Board to come up with a plan to address this issue and keep the runway viable. When strong cross winds occur that don't align with the main runway, this solution allows planes to take off and land and it is important to the airport and should be protected in the future. A plan of attack was developed and it involved one phase to repair and seal the cracks to stop further deterioration with a 2nd phase to involve runway surface treatment and remarking. The estimate for the 1st phase is \$110,000 with another \$120,000 needed to do surface treatment and remarking under the next phase. He explained a time line as it concerns the 5 year capital improvement plan.

***2) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval to utilize local airport funds to perform crack sealing on runway 12/31 at Yelland Field. Vice Chairman Travis Godon**

Commission Vice Chairman Travis Godon was at the Airport Advisory Meeting and advised that everyone there supported this project. Cross winds do exist and the runway should not be allowed to get worse. Finance Director Frances reported that the airport capital improvement fund has \$332,000 and they have adequate funds to get thru 2024. Prior to hitting any 2026 projects, more funds will need to be added. Commissioner Godon moved for approval and Commissioner Carson seconded the motion, which passed.

***3) Discussion/Possible Action: To utilize airport CARES funding for runway 12/31 crack sealing as recommended by Airport Advisory Board. Vice Chairman Travis Godon**

Commission Vice Chair Godon said Lance Gale and Finance Director Frances had procured \$20,000 in CARES Act funding for the airport to be used for anything. The Airport Advisory Board agreed this crack sealing needs to be done. Director Frances noted protocols; those will need to be closely followed. Commissioner Godon moved to approve. Commissioner Bybee made a second and the motion passed.

G. 11:00 A.M. ELY CORRAL ASSOCIATION

***1) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval to grant permission for the Ely Corral Association to perform certain upgrades to the corrals including: construction of a perimeter fence to keep animals off of the road, repair of the arena fence, and the construction of a building intended to be used for veterinarians to perform medical procedures on animals. Darwin Kent Lynskey**

Mr. Lynskey is the president and corral boss at the White Pine Corral Association. Per the existing lease, he needs approval to proceed with major upgrades, which is what brings him here today. He explained that the corrals are on both county and city property. Commissioner Bybee invited members to drive thru the corrals and touted the great work Mr. Lynskey and his group have done there. Commissioners Bybee, Carson and Howe expressed their appreciation to Mr. Lynskey for his efforts. Mr. Lynskey explained that

funding for these upgrades will come from corral renters and grants he intends to apply for with this authorization. Commissioner Godon moved for approval, Commissioner Bybee seconded the motion and it passed.

2. ITEMS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS:

A. COUNTY COMMISSION:

1. Travis Godon, Vice Chairman

***a) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval to address a letter to the State BLM Director, Jon Raby, relaying concerns of range conditions that impact livestock producers in White Pine County**

Commission Vice Chairman Travis Godon was contacted by Hank Vogler, a local sheepherder, who had concerns about the issue of wild horses impacting rangeland. He disclosed he comes from a ranching family and will be voting on this item. The letter asked horse gatherers to continue to do gathers as the problem continues to grow. Commissioner Carson felt it would be appropriate to include our local BLM manager in this letter; Clerk Baldwin will cc her on the letter. Commissioner Godon moved to approve this letter and Commissioner Bybee seconded the motion, which passed.

B. ELECTED OFFICIALS:

1. Mike Wheable, District Attorney

***a) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval to appoint a representative member to the Nevada Local Justice Reinvestment Coordinating Council as created by AB 236 (2019) and codified into NRS 176.014**

Finance Director Elizabeth Frances recommended that someone involved in criminal sentencing would be best to fill this appointment. This item will come back at a later time when DA Mike Wheable returns, as he had left earlier for an appointment. At 11:29 am, DA Wheable, via Zoom, nominated McKenzie Hilton for this. Commissioner Bybee moved to approve the nomination. Commissioner Carson seconded the nomination and it passed; McKenzie Hilton was appointed.

2. Burton Hilton, Assessor

***a) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval to refund taxpayer for parcel 005-591-49 a total of \$263.52 for over assessment per NRS 361.768; the taxpayer's personal exemption was properly returned, but not applied**

Via Zoom, Assessor Burton Hilton presented this item. Some people get personal exemptions, he explained. This person did return their exemption, but a glitch in the system did not properly apply it. The problem was caught and amended, but the taxpayer was still overpaid. The money cannot be returned until the individual provides a W-9 form. Commissioner Carson moved for approval. Commissioner Godon seconded the motion and it passed.

3. Sheriff Scott Henriod

***a) Discussion/For possible action: Approval/Ratification of the Office of Criminal Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$81,000. This grant is used to fund the Eastern Nevada Narcotics Task Force**

Sheriff Scott Henriod presented this item and he is thankful for this grant. Finance Director Elizabeth Frances noted there is a match and it is everything they fund to Task Force officers. Last year, it was \$36,000 which is transferred to the task force grant fund annually. Eureka County matches \$30,000 and Lincoln County matches \$15,000 in funds as well, per the Sheriff. The County picks up the rest in the form of benefits. Commissioner Bybee moved to approve this item. Commissioner Godon seconded the motion and it passed.

***b) Discussion/For possible action: Approval/Ratification of the U.S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration Grant in the amount of \$15,000. The funds are to be used to gather and report intelligence data on the illicit cultivation, possession, and distribution of illicit cannabis**

Sheriff Henriod explained that he applied for this last year and received it, and reapplied this year; there is no match. Commissioner Carson moved for approval, Commissioner Bybee seconded. Motion passed.

4. Nichole Baldwin, County Clerk

***a) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of the request for re-appointment to the Local Emergency Planning Committee by Pete Mangum representing EMS and Civil Defense**

Commissioner Godon moved to reappoint Pete Mangum to LEPC. Commissioner Carson seconded the motion and it passed.

***b) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval to reappoint Kathryn Brunson to the Ag District 13/Fair & Rodeo Board**

Commissioner Godon made a motion to reappoint Kathryn Brunson to Ag 13 Fair and Rodeo Board. Commissioner Bybee seconded the motion, which passed.

C. DEPARTMENT HEADS

1. Kristi Rozich, Aquatic Center Director

***a) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval to close the McGill Pool for the dates of June 3-6, 2021 for the McGill Music Festival orchestrated by Rudy Herndon**

At 11:16 am, Aquatic Center Director, Kristi Rozich, and Rudy Herndon presented this item. She noted McGill Town Council's letter of support that was in the backup material. Mr. Herndon explained that he is the founder of the music festival. He will come back to give a more detailed presentation later this month or next month. He wanted to let the Board know that he has been in touch with 24 bands who are still on board with the event. He advised that he found a security firm who can help manage the event, whom he has worked for more than a year to find. He is in discussion with RioTinto/Kennecott to utilize property to the north of the park for parking and private camping. Commissioner Bybee explained that his brother helped him navigate the website for this festival and was able to test the music. Mr. Herndon is optimistic they can go forward in June. By April, he will be reviewing this to decide to go forward. He noted most bands are from Texas and he is excited to introduce locals to the music. He's trying to get attendees from the Salt Lake and Wasatch front areas with the event being advertised in Utah. He is doing all the ground work to ensure safety and fun. He spoke with Bill Calderwood, Public Works Director, about this festival in greater

detail. Ms. Rozich explained that this event cannot go on while the pool is open due to an insurance issue. Chairman Howe read an email from Director Frances which detailed historic revenue; it showed nickels and dimes when compared to possible revenue from this event. Commissioner Bybee asked what the county would save in labor costs by not being open those 4 days? Director Frances explained that they only looked at revenues in preparation for today's meeting, but as a government-run operation, they always operate at a loss. Mr. Herndon offered to pay the missing revenues, but noted the amount of money he has personally expended to bring this forward far surpasses that amount. He is in the red and is hoping to turn a profit; however, this may end up being a donation to the Railroad Foundation. He's hoping to build a sense of pride in the community. Commissioner Bybee moved to approve this item. Commissioner Bullis made a second and the motion passed. Mr. Herndon thanked the Board and invited them to come to McGill to see greater details about this great event.

***b) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of the grant received from POOL/PACT to purchase new life jackets to replace ones that are damaged, worn, or otherwise unable to be used for its intended purpose**

Director Rozich applied for POOL/PACT grant to get new life jackets; it was received and the life jackets were obtained. Finance Director Frances noted a program thru POOL/PACT that keeps lifejackets up to code that the Aquatic Center is a part of. These lifejackets are used at both locations (Ely Aquatic Center and McGill Pool). Commissioner Carson moved for approval and Commissioner Godon seconded the motion. The motion passed.

2. Brett North, Emergency Management Director

***a) Discussion/For Possible Action: Ratification of the United We Stand grant application to the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) made by the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) in the amount of \$395,689.00 for equipment to combat terrorism with a required County match amount of \$0**

At 9:20 am, Fire Chief North advised that we were offered extra money from SERC so lists of needs were put together by agencies in the county that respond to emergencies and they are applying for that assistance. Commissioner Godon moved to approve this item and Commissioner Bybee seconded the motion, which passed.

3. Lori Romero, Library Director

***a) Discussion/ For Possible Action: Approval to post position for Children's Librarian (Grade 117/ Step X at \$14.96) due to recent vacancy effective 11-6-2020 and impact on literacy program**

Lori Romero, Library Director, handed out an organizational chart to the room, which explained how the positions in the library operate. Each has a task they are responsible for. Being shorted this position impacts the rest of the library and creates a big void. The person who left made over \$20/hr while rehiring would present a savings of over \$5/hr since the new hire will get paid \$14.76/hr. They are currently in training for the summer literacy program. Can they please fill that position, even if it's not until the end of March? This program creates lifelong learners and lifelong readers, which the world needs more of.

Chairman Howe stated that we are in a crisis and the Governor just announced 30 more days of the “pause”. He’s concerned that March puts us in the budget cycle and we are looking at big cuts. We may end up hiring someone and will have to look at sustaining that position.

Commissioner Bybee stated that his children were raised in this program and his father-in-law was the County Librarian in the 1980’s. He agrees with the Library Board that this is a needed program in this community. He had to consider that the Library Director is heavily involved in our Senior Center; to be running short handed in the library while running the Senior Center, he felt this is being stretched too thin. He is in support of filling this position. Director Romero added that the programs ran by this position are fully grant funded. November 6th was the last day of the last employee. Commissioner Carson suggested delaying until February instead of March. Commissioner Godon was good with replacing this position with the caveat that when push comes to shove, hard decisions will need to be made. Commissioner Bullis agreed with Commissioner Shane Bybee and desired to get things back to normal. Commissioner Godon moved to approve to post immediately with a start date of March 1st. Commissioner Bybee seconded the motion and it passed.

4. Tim Bunch, Human Resources Director

a) Discussion/Update on the decision concerning the White Pine County Sheriff’s Employee Association step increase

Human Resources Director, Tim Bunch, via Zoom advised the Board that the Sheriff’s Employee Association graciously voted last July to keep with the county on step increases, however, they took another vote last month and decided to go forward with the step increases effective Jan. 1st. Finance Director Frances iterated that she wanted this on the public record given the Commission’s decision to ask them to forgo increases.

***b) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of Kristi Rozich as the PLUAC/WAC Administrative Assistant to the Boards**

Director Bunch, via Zoom, posted the vacancy and Ms. Rozich was the only applicant. She helped Emily Willard previously when Emily was the secretary. Commissioner Godon moved for approval, Commissioner Carson seconded and the motion passed.

***c) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval to post job vacancy for Social Services Case Worker (Grade 117, Step X @ \$14.76/hr)**

HR Director Bunch, via Zoom, advised that this was due to movement from Social Services to the District Attorney’s Office’s office creating a vacancy and he is asking to post immediately. Chairman Howe has looked at this position in the past and felt as we move forward, the budget is going to get zapped. This could be on the agenda for the budget season. Social Services’ high season is Nov. and Dec. and he wants to possibly absorb this position thru attrition. Desiree Barnson, Social Services Director, via Zoom pointed out that her budget is not in the general fund and is mandated to go up every year. She is also running the transportation program for Ely Bus. She cannot keep covering public health, Ely Bus, and Social Services. Commissioner Carson stated that that office is handling more than what they used to and it is too much for one person. Finance Director Frances talked to Senator Goicoechea about this situation where the legislature mandates a 4.5% increase annually in the Social Services budget resulting in a large ending fund balance. The purpose of that EFB

is partly to pay indigent medical and if someone indigent comes down with a disease, they could have to pay for that. Commissioner Carson advised that she sat on the indigent hospitalization board for a number of years and she moved for approval of this item. Commissioner Bybee felt this is a necessary position and stated that we need to keep moving forward and helping people. With that, Commissioner Bybee seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 4 to 1 with Chairman Richard Howe voting no.

5. Elizabeth Frances, Finance Director

***a) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of monthly financial reports for December 2020**

Commissioner Carson moved to approve. Commissioner Bybee seconded. The motion passed.

***b) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of Proposed FY2022 Budget Preparation Schedule**

Finance Director Frances reminded the Board that it is a legislative year again and they will have the ability to amend their budget within 30 days of the close of the session. Commissioner Godon moved to approve the schedule. Commissioner Carson seconded the motion and it passed.

***c) Discussion/for Possible Action: Approval of final budget amendment to CARES Act Funds and restructuring of expenses**

Director Frances advised that Federal legislation says we have until Dec. 2021 to spend these funds, despite the state not recognizing that. She explained that she is utilizing the Sheriff's Department wages and benefits to fill in if things did not come in as anticipated to make sure every last penny is spent. The report can be amended once the extension is given. Commissioner Godon thanked Director Frances and her staff for their work on this. Commissioner Godon made a motion to approve. Commissioner Carson seconded the motion. Commissioner Bybee disclosed that he was a recipient of these funds and has to abstain. The motion passed with a vote of 4:0 with 1 abstention.

***d) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of Grant Award for the 7th Judicial District Court from the Nevada Administrative Office of the Courts for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 for equipment required for a new JAVS system in Courtroom 208 in conjunction with the Justice Center Project in the amount of \$45,905 with a County required match of \$24,708.78 appropriated from FY2021 beginning fund balance**

Finance Director Frances disclosed that they applied for this grant with the understanding that the match was \$20,000, but that was increased by \$4,708.78. This is needed for the new courthouse. Commissioner Godon moved to approve, Commissioner Bybee made a second. Motion passed.

***e) Discussion/For Possible Direction: Planning for current courthouse at completion of Justice Center Project including progress on engineering study,**

anticipated renovation, movement of offices from administration building and potential subsequent disposal of administration building

Finance Director Frances expressed the need to start coordinating this. Public Works Director Calderwood did an RFQ and received 2 responses, from which they selected TSK Architecture. He will bring an item for approval at the next meeting. TSK will be here on the 26th and 27th of January to inspect the courthouse. They have the plans and engineering study to start the ball rolling. Commissioner Carson asked if there was any discussion on who might want to renovate. Director Frances recommended to have a meeting with the departments going to the courthouse. Director Calderwood noted some x-rays of interior walls in the bottom of the courthouse were done and they did not see rebar, which raised a big concern. Director Frances noted it is a historic building and there are grants available for renovation of historical buildings. Commissioner Bybee felt we need to move forward with this. With appraisals being good for 6 months, they will wait on the appraisal process. Director Calderwood will move forward with the architects and will come back on the agenda in the near future.

***f) Discussion/For possible action: Approval to utilize Community Development Block Grant slum/ blight abatement funds to remedy slum/blight at the McGill Ballpark and old canyon sheds**

Finance Director Frances has been working with Public Works Director Calderwood on this item. This was approved thru CDBG to demolish the old canyon sheds and turn them into parking. At the McGill Ballpark, they are trying to get things in a safer condition for little league. The first base side seating needs pulled and the hill needs contoured for little league. On the top heading north, ADA walk base will need to be laid to the little league section with safety rails to satisfy ADA requirements. Dirt was left over that can be used to shore up angles coming off hills, and if funds are left, they are to look at putting an ice rink in and replacing the gate by the playground equipment. We have to own the property to make these improvements, so these do qualify, per Director Frances. Commissioner Carson moved for approval. Commissioner Bybee seconded the motion and it passed.

***g) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of Grant Time Extension from the Nevada Department Of Public Safety in Order to Spend the Remaining \$344.45 of the Mass Casualty and Active Shooter Equipment Funding With a Required County Match Of \$0**

It was explained that the Sheriff has items selected for this grant. Commissioner Bybee moved to approve the motion and Commissioner Carson made a second. Item passed.

***h) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of Grant Award from the Nevada Department of Public Safety- Office of Criminal Justice. For Funding of Courthouse Security Equipment in an Amount Not To Exceed \$64,000.00 with A Required County Match of \$0**

It was explained that this is to pay for a walk thru security scanner into the new courthouse and a new package scanner. Commissioner Bybee moved to approve and Commissioner Carson made the second. Item passed.

***i) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval to Prepare and Publish Request for Proposals for Public Defender Services for White Pine County Based on Existing or Alternative Delivery of Service Method**

Finance Director Frances explained that the current contract is set to expire June 30th. High costs have come forward this year and she wants to look at other ways to offer public defender services in White Pine County. She discussed this with the state and we have until March 1st to opt back into to state public defender services. The decision needs to be made by the last meeting in February. Commissioner Bybee moved for approval of this item and Commissioner Godon made a second. Motion passed.

***j) Discussion/for Possible Action: Approval to amend the Protocols for Internal Auditors When Identifying Fraud or Suspected Fraud to include protocols encompassing other financial irregularities**

Finance Director Frances noted the issue in the Treasurer's Office that occurred last year and advised that no policies exist to handle that in the future. In the backup, protocols were added for when auditors identify irregularities. This will be a part of a corrective action plan given the finding in our audit. Reconciliations are now caught up thru June 2020 and are still being worked on. This was ran by the internal audit committee and approved, Director Frances added. Commissioner Carson moved for approval. Commissioner Bybee made the second and the motion passed.

***k) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of Resolution 2021-02 to utilize \$5,500 from contingency to cover the cost for required appraisal of White Pine County water rights**

It was explained that this is related to the Waterpower LLC project, which should be reimbursed to the county. Commissioner Godon moved for approval. Commissioner Bybee made a second and the motion passed.

***l) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of Resolution 2021-04 to utilize \$4,129 from contingency to cover the cost for annual leave payout to an employee authorized due to extenuating circumstances**

It was explained that this is for the Chief Deputy Recorder and the leave payout previously approved by the Board. Commissioner Godon moved to approve and Commissioner Carson seconded; motion passed.

***m) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of Resolution 2021-03 to utilize \$50,000 from contingency to cover the cost for the Economic Emergency as outlined in Resolution 2020-76**

Commissioner Godon moved for approval and Commissioner Bybee seconded the motion. It passed.

***n) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of Resolution 2021-05 to Augment the 911 Telephone Surcharge Fund from unanticipated and unbudgeted beginning fund balance in the amount of \$8,104 to provide for address GIS support services, completion of addressing database and training**

Director Frances explained that they are making progress with GIS addressing and need additional training to maintain the database and keep the addressing project moving forward. Commissioner Carson moved for approval and Commissioner Godon seconded the motion, which passed.

***o) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of Resolution 2021-07 to augment the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 General Fund from unanticipated and unbudgeted beginning fund balance by \$24,709 to cover the grant match required for Grant Award for the 7th Judicial District Court from the Nevada Administrative Office of the Courts**

Commissioner Bybee moved for approval. Commissioner Carson made the second and the motion passed.

***p) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval to Prepare and Publish Request for Proposals for Information Technology Managed Services for White Pine County Based on Existing or Alternative Delivery of Service Method**

Director Frances explained that we have been with BCT since 2014 and it is good to put out an RFP to ensure we have the best options. This item died for lack of motion.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

The following are "action" items that may be considered in one motion/one vote. They are considered routine, non-public hearing items that have no protests. Any person representing an item or member of the public not in agreement with the recommendations by staff should request to have that item removed from the Consent Agenda. Any County Commissioner may remove any items from the consent Agenda and have it placed in the Action Items.

***a) Discussion/For Possible Action: to ratify Correspondence Sent on Behalf of the White Pine County Commission.**

***b) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of Payroll for County Elected Officials.**

***c) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of HR Transmittal for Payroll Changes.**

***d) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of budget transfers within and between functions or programs within a fund that do not increase the total appropriation of the fund.**

Commissioner Carson moved for approval. Commissioner Bybee made the second and the consent agenda was approved.

4. NOTICE OF UNTIMED ITEMS

***a) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of minutes from the following County Commission Meetings:**

- **December 9, 2020**
- **Special December 21, 2020**
- **Special January 4, 2021**

Commissioner Carson had given Clerk Nichole Baldwin a list of corrections for the December 9th meeting minutes prior to this meeting. Commissioner Carson moved to approve the minutes with corrections. Commissioner Godon made the second and the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Carson moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Bybee seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 pm.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHITE PINE COUNTY
STATE OF NEVADA

BY: 
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:


WPC CLERK OF THE BOARD