

IN A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY COMMISSION & BUDGET WORKSHOP HELD ON MARCH 9, 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
Jill Perez, Deputy Clerk

County Officials:

Desiree Barnson, Social Services Director
McKinzie Hilton, Chief Deputy DA
Stephen Bishop, Justice of the Peace
Elizabeth Frances, Finance Director
Mike Johnson, IT Specialist
Lynette Gust, Juvenile Probation Office
Megan Pekuri, Juvenile Probation Office
Jennifer Drew, Building and Planning
Steve Dobrescu, District Court Judge

Also Present:

George Chachas, George Town Media

Present via Zoom: none

Chairman Richard Howe called the meeting to order at 8:34 am. Commissioner Ian Bullis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE/SILENT INVOCATION

This was duly observed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

George Chachas reported that he had not received written statements regarding the numerous issues he had brought before this Board and felt that he deserved better. He made a protest about decisions at the Regional Planning Commission during the February 10, 2021 County Commission Meeting and he has not seen anything put on the agenda in regards to that. He noted item 1A held yesterday and the fact that there was no item addressing the victim's fund and damages he suffered. Taxpayers pay taxes for equal protection under the law and it is not the responsibility of the victim to chase down restitution for those damages. He stated that he will protest the RPC meeting held February 17, 2021 citing that he was not allowed to speak and proper procedure had not been followed. He spoke about carpet baggers not following rules and regulations. Per Governor Sisolak's directives, those not exempted under the law shall be required to cover their mouths and noses with a mask or

face covering in a public space and further alleged that Commissioner Ian Bullis had attended over 20 meetings without wearing a mask and that needed to be addressed. Time was called.

1. BUDGET WORKSHOP:

A. Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Workshop/Discussion/For Possible Action: Direction on FY2022 Budget for Public Health including Social Services, Judicial, Public Works and Parks and Recreation

Public Health

Finance Director Elizabeth Frances explained that Social Services Director Desiree Barnson was here for public health and social services. Director Barnson was seeking a change to full time employees in the upcoming fiscal year based on state funding she had received. Ely Bus services were now coming out of the indigent services fund and Director Barnson was given the state indigent accident fund this year.

Public Health Nurse

Director Barnson listed a change to a potential position that is shared with social services and public health. She worked with Fire Chief Brett North and Public Health Nurse Shannon Peirce to obtain an \$80,538.12 grant that finally arrived. She hired that position that came from within the county and is currently getting benefits. The grant she got goes through June 2022 and salary and benefits were built in; she asked for the Board to approve that. Public Health does not use the county budget, she advised. Commissioner Carson asked about the food inspection line. Finance Director Frances advised that was for the inspection of restaurants locally and we pay an assessment to the state to come in to perform those inspections; she offered to share a spreadsheet she used to get those numbers. The Finance Director explained that the grant monies received for the split position are in fund 735 that have an automatic augmentation under NRS and she will develop that budget portion to cover the salary for the proposed position with the balance to be added July 1st.

Social Services

Director Barnson did not make changes, but asked the Finance Director to look at the new temporary position to increase that to full time, and also the NDOT grant which starts October or September. It was unknown if she will have to pay a match at this time and noted a donation from Mt. Wheeler Power to go toward that. The Finance Director will ensure the 4.5% statutory increase is done before the tentative budget is ready. If that half time position stays in her office, she will give a couple of programs to that person to handle. Director Barnson advised the Board about Knocks Boxes for elderly and disabled people that contain keys for the Sheriff, EMTs and Fire Departments to access their homes to avoid broken windows and busted-in doors to access their homes in a medical emergency. She paid \$15,000 out of indigent medical to cover these and will accept donations, otherwise, they are at no cost to recipients. She intended for all of her elderly clients to get one on their home. The cost is \$117 per box and they have 55 ready currently.

Indigent accident fund

Director Barnson advised that this fund is used to pay the state for medical costs for indigent individuals involved in accidents in our jurisdiction per NRS.

Judicial

District Attorney

McKinzie Hilton, Chief Deputy DA, addressed the Board about this budget. Commissioner Bybee made a disclosure that his daughter works in the DA's office so he will not be participating in any discussions. Finance Director Frances noted the changes in staffing that were approved by this Board recently. 50% of the special prosecutor position was grant funded, but that changed to the general fund and she wanted to see if that can be paid 100% out of the grant fund. Chief Deputy DA Hilton hoped to hire both new attorneys at step one, but did request to be budgeted to hire at step 3 for flexibility. Their copy machine went from a lease agreement to a maintenance agreement due to not holding jury trials and not using much of the budget, but will utilize that more this year. Office supplies will go up due to the capital murder case increasing paper costs. Postage will decrease. The time clock system requested is for them to monitor staff when they come and go. They are requesting an additional laptop and camera due to COVID to conduct hearings via Zoom and appear remotely, work weekends, and at night for warrants, etc. In travel and training, they asked for \$6,560 for education credits for attorneys. They are doing away with attorney cell phones since they were not being used. They are asking for \$1,200 for an NCIC line to obtain a criminal history report with a separate IP address for security. Witness fees were low because of COVID last year, but she was asking for more due to the capital murder trial and other trials. They are switching from JustWare to the eProsecutor system. The Finance Director explained the software support and contracts from prior years.

Law Library

The Lexus Nexus agreement is for research for law clerks, the DA's office, Public Defenders, and law books; no change was requested.

Justice of Peace – Ely

Justice of the Peace Stephen Bishop asked for an increase to his wages. His base pay has not been increased in 10 years and he was declined to get that increase every time he had asked. His pay has been stagnant and he is making less than what he was making when he started with the county. He's doing more work from various departments, doing jury trials from municipal court, handling more cases, and has been doing more with less that he should have as far as staff in his office. He noted he was selected as Judge of the year for 2020 and continues to advocate for the county in that arena. He asked for recognition in his pay as not getting a raise has been disheartening, although he loves his job. Chairman Howe acknowledged that 10 years is a long time and he appreciated knowing twat Judge Bishop has been doing and promised they will look at it this year. It was noted that the JOP does not require an attorney requirement or passage of the bar, therefore Judge Bishop is more qualified than required. He requested operating supplies and expenses to increase. His admin fees are committed to future projects, but noted he gave \$500,000 to the county for furnishings in the new courthouse. He had cut operating expenses out in previous years to

balance the budget. Judge Bishop mentioned a lot of legislation that will pass and is working to mitigate the blow to his expenses. His court management system needs replaced and he budgeted money for the creation of a new system in previous years. In response to a question from Commissioner Carson in regards to the availability of grant funds, he advised that this expense was not something he can get grants for. He explained that he needed to keep judicial hours that were covered with admin fees due to traffic tickets being reduced causing the need to shift funds to Drug Court for needed resources. Chairman Howe asked about billing the city for crimes that occur in the city. Judge Bishop replied that it all depends on how the crime is charged and that the city should be charged and back billed under certain circumstances. A statute says that jury trials cannot occur in municipal court so domestic violence cases are moved to justice court. He hasn't had to do a jury trial, but still has to do all the prep work. He was asking for a JuryMark license at the rate of \$30,000 to \$100,000, and noted that the way it's been done was cheaper. He stated that he was not requesting changes on other fees; his collection fees are limited and will be drained fast and he was hoping to stave that off. The Finance Director added that the house arrests transfer to his budget are from the general fund to support that program despite revenues not providing enough to pay for expenditures. She will be bringing the projected ending fund balances and smaller revenue funds back in the near future.

Judicial Costs

District Court Judge Steve L Dobrescu updated the Board on what's happening in the courts. They tried to have a jury trial last week and used the portable JAVS system that they obtained through a grant, but only 40 jurors showed up causing it to be continued and advised that show cause hearings will take place next week. He intends to do a press release as to why it's important to show up for jury duty. The capital case coming up in September, he is hoping will take place in the existing courthouse. In response to a query from Commissioner Carson about jurors failing to appear being fined, he explained that when someone says "I didn't get the summons" nothing can be done, otherwise its contempt and the court can administer a fine or jail time. Judge Dobrescu advised that Drug Court statistics in 2017 show that 78% of the participants are not coming back into the system and currently, 20 participants have full time employment. The statewide budget for all Drug Courts is \$8-9 million with \$5 million coming from traffic assessments, which have declined. AB 116 seeks to change all traffic assessments to civil enforcement only so they may lose funding. They have applied for grants. The county has been collecting a fund for many years they are looking at using to support that program. He is on a legislative committee who is reaching out to the Governor who took money from Drug Court for the Spring Mountain Center; they think he didn't understand what he was doing and they are working to rectify that.

District Court #1

District Court #2

These were covered in the above conversation.

Juvenile Probation

Judge Dobrescu advised that this budget included a new vehicle request. He explained that many months ago he had worked on step schedule for a Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

that was never brought forward by Human Resources. The proposal was done in 2019 to set court security to be comparable to the Sheriff's office, for CAT 3 certification to be on step 9, and for the bailiff and Chief Juvenile Probation Officer certified as CAT 1 from step 11 to step 15 similar to sergeants. Judge Dobrescu explained that the Chief JPO covers 3 counties who oversees the administrative aspects on a supervisory level. Chairman Howe noted the victim impact fund is listed and asked Judge about that. It was clarified that victim impact panel is for DUIs, not for personal property loss. Chief JPO Lynette Gust advised the Board that her budget stayed the same.

Juvenile Detention

No change was discussed.

Bailiffs

For this budget, Judge Dobrescu advised that they still have a position open for a bailiff. The Finance Director will work with the Judge to look at revenues for Drug Court as it is an important and effective program that may require subsidies. It's a legislative year so amendments may be needed. Drug counselors' benefits are paid from the general fund and wages are paid out of the grant fund. She had not gotten an updated amount for PSI reports from the state at this time.

Chairman Howe called for a break called at 9:37 am.

Court Judicial Support

The meeting came back into session and Clerk Baldwin presented this budget. She requested an increase for postage, which had increased and they are mailing out more juror mailings. She requested an increase in miscellaneous to accommodate the need for smaller files boxes to go into the high density storage system in the new courthouse. The Finance Director added that she had added 240 hours of labor to help the Clerk move these records. She asked for increases to software maintenance and services for Precision Document Imaging and IBM maintenance amounts. The Clerk asked for amounts for jury trials to be left alone due to many trials having been scheduled.

Public Works Maintenance

The Finance Director explained an increase in new positions for 1 custodian and 1 senior maintenance position. Previously they had asked for that senior maintenance position to be temporary to supervise at the Justice Center, but are now asking for this to continue and become a regular permanent position in the county. She added a request for 480 hours to assist in the move to the Justice Center. Public Works Director Bill Calderwood advised that for the maintenance full time position, it is broke out to maintenance and parks and can go either way. When he started, he had more people in maintenance than they do now, but they have the Aquatic Center, a new Justice Center, a full time need at the golf course, and the EOC. They are bringing in parks through SNPLMA and continue to bring in more buildings; the county has to pay to fund it otherwise they should not bring more in. Commissioner Bullis asked for a worst case scenario to create a target to work toward; how many people are

needed and how much would that cost? SNPLMA only pays for the park that would require a full time park worker and one seasonal worker. Although funded by the general fund, his departments are only working in the general fund half the time with the remaining time spent in special revenue funds. The Aquatic Center is the only department getting billed for maintenance time. He has a fulltime maintenance guy who mowed lawns in McGill due to not being able to find seasonal employees. Commissioner Godon asked if they looked at contracting out lawn mowing. Director Calderwood liked the idea, but his mowers are huge and he can't contract anyone unless they are using the county's equipment. They had increased the seasonal wage 2 years ago, but are still struggling to find seasonal help. Commissioner Bullis suggested the golf course to contract with a local lawn service. Commissioner Carson suggested that if he was able to obtain a full time janitor and maintenance senior, they might not need seasonal workers. Commissioner Godon suggested obtaining a contract for the cleaning of the courthouse. Commissioner Bybee advised that in Utah, the courthouses and schools are cleaned with supervised inmate trustees. Director Calderwood was contacted by Amy Adams in Drug Court in regards to a request for community service hours for Drug Court participants, but that hasn't panned out. He noted the jail struggles to find a trustee to do laundry because of the requirements to be a trustee. He is not taking community service people because most don't have driver's licenses. Chairman Howe expressed he was not in favor of custodial contracting. Commissioner Godon clarified that they are not advocating to remove the current two custodians. Commissioner Bybee stated that taking the job to a private contractor lightens the load on PERS and benefits. Director Calderwood stated the maintenance position was his highest priority and he will bring back a price for janitorial contract services for the new courthouse and for the lawns. The overtime he requested was for fogging, but the Board voted to only do that on a case by case basis so it was removed and kept at \$500. He increased his maintenance supplies to \$7,600. He asked for \$3,900 to be added for new air filters for COVID to be replaced twice a year. The \$4,000 was for snow removal with the added building and he explained where snow will go at the Justice Center. He asked to increase the phone item to stay within budget. Contract services are to stay the same. He asked for an increase for elevator services of \$680 because they are no longer provided by the state. Under equipment over \$5,000, he asked for \$43,600 for a new service truck, but a used truck can be bought cheaper. Finance Director Frances added in an increase for electricity for the Justice Center, \$375 for fire alarms under contract services, and \$6,480 for fire alarm maintenance. She further explained that IT upgrades for the Justice Center were reduced to zero as they can value engineer those into the project.

Capital Improvements

Finance Director Frances advised that special revenue funds and ad valorem property taxes will be updated March 25th. Director Calderwood advised that \$354,000 for proposed projects and \$160,000 for the Public Safety Building façade was included in this budget, which is their number one priority. He included a sheet that outlined proposed projects for next year. Commissioner Carson asked about a possible carryover for courthouse engineering services for next year. Director Frances is waiting for the engineering report before she can do final number. The Recorder's vault and more room for storage for the Treasurer were discussed. The county will need to look at an external storage building, per

Director Calderwood. Director Frances added that the \$750,000 transfer for the courthouse renovation will be added to revenues. Expenditures carried forward will be reduced to \$20,000 for the estimate for contract services for next FY for the Justice Center. CIP for courthouse renovations has a placeholder for the \$200,000 estimate allowing for numbers to be adjusted.

Building and Planning

Finance Director Frances adjusted revenues as they have been exceeding \$86,000 with large projects coming up; that was increased to \$110,000. She noted the one request for an administrative assistant. She also changed the contract service for the building office with a 2% increase plus mileage reimbursement based on incurred mileage. Commissioner Carson asked if the changes with the city hiring a new building inspector without proper certification, will the agreement be the same? Director Frances will have the DA's office review that contract to see if the city is required to provide a certified building official. Jennifer Drew advised that their full time building official who is not certified cannot sign off on some things, but can on others. He goes with Brad Christiansen on inspections and Brad is still full time.

Ms. Drew increased the copy machine by \$100 for the Regional Planning Commission requiring more copies. Edicode is to maintain CEUs to maintain certification and to further education. The master insurance policy is an allocation based on the actual amount, but she did not have estimates at this time.

Road Department

Director Frances advised that revenues have not been adjusted in this budget. They have a couple of retirees and are asking for 2 seasonal workers up to \$1,000 each for the step one pay scale for a senior operator for someone with a CDL. They purchased a new water truck last year with an automatic transmission. Director Calderwood was asking for travel and training to be increased by \$600 to travel out of town to purchase used trucks for the mechanic and operator. They are further requesting \$1,155 for SLUPAC meetings, which may be virtual. For equipment and fuel, he requested an increase of \$25,000 due to picking up more users of the fuel system. Gas prices were discussed and the Board directed him to add 30% to this budget for a total of \$260,000 for fuel. He requested an increase for the grounding system to replace the teeth and pick system. Mag chloride is successful on roads, but is hard to rip up when doing road repairs. Under contract services, Sierra Electronics used in public safety and the fire district was increased. He noted the repeater on Squaw Peak that 5D Networks wants to use. BLM owns the ground under that, but the county needs to talk to the BLM to see if we can sublease the building and make a profit.

Public Transit

Finance Director Frances noted \$200,000 for city roads. She updated revenues with higher than projected sales tax. Director Calderwood added in an increase for Ely Bus whose maintenance comes from this budget; the grant needed a \$300,000 match. Equipment over \$5,000 included a request for a ¾ ton truck at \$36,000, a \$350,000 grader, and they will exercise the options for buy back for an actual cost of \$65,000 for use for 5 years.

RTC

The Finance Director noted the revenues stayed the same without knowing what the new \$0.05 diesel fuel tax will do. Under equipment repair and maintenance, there was an increase of \$500 for the county/city sweeper. The breakdown of city road expenditures are \$1,175,000 for the first phase on Murry Street to replace the sewer line with RTC paying a portion of the asphalt replacement. The county road expenditure breakdown showed costs using this budget to support all projects going forward. Director Calderwood advised they are doing their own chips and road oil with the exception of highway paint for \$6,000. The Murry Street phase 2 came to \$59,300 for engineering, which is shared jointly with the city. If the county needs to rent a road broom, the equipment line item is for that. Under contract services, the RTC approved to slurry all of McGill for an estimate of \$354,000, which will free up time to assist the city with chipping projects. The Finance Director noted some errors on the RTC PACT number to pay for insurance for the RTC board. Also, they are jointly owning equipment with the city and it is unknown if property insurance exists, but it should be there and she will provide updated numbers later. Under transfers out to Baker for the TAP grant, those should've been completed in the current FY and that should be reduced to zero.

Parks and Recreation

Parks

Director Calderwood advised that he has 2 seasonal employees at 1,000 hours each. Under equipment under \$5,000 they are requesting a \$3,000 increase for weed trimmers and blowers. He eliminated some trees in Veteran's Park that need replaced. For equipment and repairs, there is an increase of \$4,100 that was previously denied for a scoreboard at Little League field 3, which is leased to Marich field and the high school. Under contract services, he had requested \$8,700 to eliminate the tree near the house by the courthouse. Under equipment over \$5,000, he requested a new mower that was previously denied; it will cost \$70,000 to be split 50/50 with the golf course. Last summer the mower broke down 13 times and they worked on it every other week. It is also used at Marich field, the Little League park, and at the golf course. He further requested a used 4 wheeler for \$6,000 to drag fields, etc.

Ag District #13

The Finance Director budgeted 1,600 hours for the fairground host. Director Calderwood noted an increase for internet services to \$600 to stay within budget. Engineering was reduced by \$10,000. There was a request for a firework display during the horse races not to exceed \$12,000. Capital improvement items were outlined. Commissioner Bybee wanted to see signage being done at the fairgrounds concession stand for passed Commissioner Steve Stork's concession pavilion in his honor. The Ag District 13 Board requested a reader board on the highway in front of the fairgrounds entrance. Chairman Howe asked if a reader board was worth the cost. Commissioner Godon noted that the Ag District has been trying to obtain this reader board for a long time. Commissioner Bybee suggested a scrolling sign that may fit into the budget better; a reader sign could cost up to \$200,000. New pig barn to replace the old pig barn was in the requests; Commissioner Godon felt the number provided was a high number.

Camp Success

Director Calderwood requested an increase under repair and maintenance supplies for \$2,000 due to the Cummins generator warranty having expired. Under contract services there was an increase of \$325 for the satellite phone contract that expires in June of this year. Camp Success had brought in revenue of about \$5,100 in the current year and about \$7,400 in past years. Director Calderwood reminded the Board that rates were changed last year.

WPC Aquatics Center

The Finance Director advised that revenues were revised to \$700,000 due to sales tax coming in higher. She had reduced program income due to not being open fully this year. There was no change for the rest of the numbers, except for transfers in capital improvement fund 385 which were previously supported by the room tax that was taken away and dedicated to the golf course. She noted the bank management fee increase. Insurance and central services allocations will be looked at again for March 24th and she will evaluate the beginning fund balance to ensure there is no deficit. Maintenance repair and equipment was changed to \$1,500 as the boiler went out costing \$11,000 per Director Calderwood. They had a controller breakdown last week at \$3,500 and he suggested an increase to a total \$15,000. Capital improvements had an amount of \$15,101 and Director Frances will get with the Aquatic Center Director about that. There was also \$10,000 in contingency for the center. The CIPs were for the long term planning and replastering of the pool and replacement of the drainage grates.

McGill Swimming Pool

Included in Aquatic Center.

Golf Course

The Finance Director worked with Randy Long, the Golf Pro, to update revenues and she eliminated grant revenues that are augmentations. There was a request for a new position provide a secretary for Golf Advisory Board meetings. The golf course has great volunteers to cover lawn maintenance due to their inability to hire a seasonal employee for that for the past 3 years. They are requesting an increase in operating supplies and expenses for grain sand. Travel and training was increased to \$1,485 to allow the Golf Pro to take reels to Reno for sharpening. Under equipment over \$5,000 was the mower that is split with the parks department. Commissioner Godon asked about the water situation with the city and Commissioner Bybee advised that he is making headway with negotiations and indicated \$25,000 should be used as a placeholder. The Finance Director noted changes to operating supplies and expenses for the lawn and electricity that will be higher and more changes may come forward based on the Golf Pro's estimates. Chairman Howe expressed that Randy Long should be recognized for the extra work he's been doing mowing and cleaning traps; he was appreciated.

Mr. Long showed up later and reported that he got a call from the Tourism and Recreation Board regarding projected capital improvement funds and they suggested he go after capital improvements as opposed to outdoor recreation funds in the upcoming season. He reiterated the need for the rough mower as it was always breaking down. He suggested reducing use of the rough mower in the summer as the hottest weather doesn't produce

much growth. He did not know where water issue stood, but Commissioner Bybee reassured him that it is being handled. He was concerned with the greens and advised that he had money left from a grant last year for sand. His biggest concern was the need to get staff with experience for seasonal needs. He has been doing more on social media with Kyle Horvath to increase golf play and spread the word. Commissioner Bullis inquired as to the restaurant at the golf course, and it was explained that the restaurant was included in the Golf Pro's contract and Commissioner Bullis did not want to put more work on Mr. Long who was already doing more than he's paid for. Mr. Long expressed that he loves what he does.

***B. Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval to give direction to the Finance Director Regarding Items Heard During the Budget Workshop**

Commissioner Bullis felt it would be helpful to get summary of requested items and a hypothetical of what that looks like financially. The Finance Director will get that for the Board on March 24th.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.


ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Bybee moved to adjourn and Commissioner Carson seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 11:34 pm.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHITE PINE COUNTY
STATE OF NEVADA

BY:



CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:



WPC CLERK OF THE BOARD