

**IN A SPECIAL JOINT COUNTY COMMISSION/FIRE COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON APRIL 9, 2019 IN THE COUNTY LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM IN ELY, NEVADA**

The Following Were Present:

Fire Commission  
Richard Howe, Chairman  
Travis Godon, Vice-Chairman  
Ian Bullis, Commissioner  
Shane Bybee, Commissioner  
Steve Stork, Commissioner  
Nichole Baldwin, Clerk of the Board

The Following Was Absent:

Susan Lujan, Deputy Clerk

County Officials

Desiree Barnson, Social Services Director  
Bill Calderwood, Public Works Director  
Tim Bunch, Human Resources Director  
Anastasia Wilken, WPCSO Dispatcher  
Lori Romero, Library/Sr. Center Director  
Scott Henriod, WPC Sheriff  
Burton Hilton, WPC Assessor  
Catherine Bakaric, WPC Treasurer  
Carl Gregory, Emergency Mgmt. Director  
Mike Wheable, District Attorney (Arrived at 1:28 p.m.)

Also Present

Gary Perea  
Victoria Perea  
Beau Carlson, WPC Fire District

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Chairman Richard Howe called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. Finance Director Elizabeth Frances led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE/SILENT INVOCATION**

This was duly observed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Gary Perea stated that the Commission has 2 choices when it comes to the issue with the Fire District/City Council. He compared it to an issue with the EDC Office, and why he felt it was important to keep that open. He has a concern that work isn't being done on grants due to the Treasurer not having the time to devote to that. He feels the proposal for Fire/EMS won't work; there's a lack of understanding by the Commission on what it is that EMTs and Firefighters do. The proposed agreement is based on the County continuing at the current level; the ISO level may not change right away, but it will change. The volunteers are struggling with this; they want to resign but won't, because they need to protect their neighbors. He continued that there are 3 EMTs in Baker; but at the moment there's only 1 due to the others' engagements. He feels the proposal won't work; not because they don't work well together, because they do, but rather it's due to financial reasons. The City of Ely has no money to balance their books. The first choice that this Commission has is to stop the agreement process and create a totally separate Fire Commission to focus on Emergency Services. This will take the politics out of it. The second choice is to watch the Fire District collapse, and then watch it be built back up.

WPC Clerk Nichole Baldwin read a letter into the record from Mr. Wyatt Cox at KELY Radio.

Emergency Management Director Carl Gregory wants to know if they will discuss wages changing in the Fire District for FY2020; he'd like that brought to the public's attention.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION/DIRECTION ON THE FY2020 FIRE DISTRICT TENTATIVE BUDGET**

Commissioner Ian Bullis asked if the City of Ely would get all of the ambulance franchise revenue, or just a portion of it? Commissioner Travis Godon asked about the \$102,000 for Contract Services; the reply was it covers items such as fire extinguishers, eDispatch, maintaining AED's, etc. That figure was the original request from our former Fire Chief. Chairman Richard Howe noted requests from the former Fire Chief aren't in the preliminary budget; Director Frances clarified that the only amounts in there are a salary for the Fire Chief and the contract amounts that were previously requested. Commissioner Steve Stork asked about medical exams; it was noted those are required for both volunteers and paid staff. Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to go forward with the tentative budget

alternate column figures that were presented today. Commissioner Travis Godon seconded. Director Frances reminded the Board that the final budget deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Steve Stork provided his disclosure statement regarding his brother Patrick as a City of Ely Firefighter/EMT and that this agenda item won't affect his brother to any greater or lesser extent than any other Firefighter in his class. He added that there is a collective bargaining agreement under which his brother works, and he will be commenting and voting on this agenda item. Chairman Howe noted that if this is approved, this will affect his brother's wages; unfortunately we don't have an attorney present today to advise on this issue. Commissioner Stork said that is Chairman Howe's opinion; Commissioner Shane Bybee stated this action has no bearing on Patrick's wages as they are set by the collective bargaining agreement. Chairman Howe called for the vote; motion carried. It was noted this agenda item was done as the WPC Fire District.

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**White Pine County Clerk**

**From:** KELLY Radio <kely1230ely@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 29, 2019 2:29 PM  
**To:** White Pine County Clerk  
**Subject:** Letter for Public Comment

As I am producing a statewide radio program at 9am, I am unable to attend the next Commission meeting. Please distribute this to the Commission and please read into the minutes.

Gentlemen

Contrary to a regular commentator who complains about the local news media, White Pine County is one of the most saturated media markets in the nation. And one that is badly underutilized by local public servants.

Our airwaves are available any time in case of emergency. And available to anyone during our weekday Morning Digest program. Our airwaves are utilized by Sheriff Henzoid, by Cozette Eldridge at RSVP, by the White Pine County Ministerial Association, and by our new Tour and Rec director, who recognizes the statewide reach of our radio station. The late Ely Mayor Jon Hickman used our airwaves often to help spread the word of Ely and White Pine County. As elected representatives of White Pine County, ask yourselves this question: Have you visited White Pine County's original radio station lately? And what have YOU done to inform local people about what's going on in the county, and are you willing to help spread the news of White Pine County statewide?

I'm at KELLY on Georgetown Ranch weekdays 9am to 2pm. Come see me!

All The Best

Wyatt Cox  
Manager, KELLY Radio  
Nevada Talk Network  
KELY, Ely, KNNR, Sparks Reno Carson City, KPVM-TV, Pahrump, KSNR, Fallon  
KNNT, Battle Mountain, KAVB, Hawthorne, KPKK, Amargosa Valley, NV

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KNNT, Battle Mountain, KAVB, Hawthorne, KPKK, Amargosa Valley, NV  
<http://www.kely1230.com>

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/DIRECTION/APPROVAL RELATED TO VARIOUS ITEMS AND DEPARTMENTS IN THE FY2020 TENTATIVE BUDGET INCLUDING: COMMISSION, CLERK, RECORDER INCLUDING SPECIAL REVENUE BUDGETS, ASSESSOR INCLUDING SPECIAL REVENUE BUDGET, TREASURER, ELECTIONS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, FINANCE, HUMAN RESOURCES, DISTRICT ATTORNEY, JUSTICE OF THE PEACE-ELY INCLUDING SPECIAL REVENUE BUDGETS, DISTRICT COURT I INCLUDING SPECIAL REVENUE BUDGETS, DISTRICT COURT II INCLUDING SPECIAL REVENUE BUDGETS, JUDICIAL RELATED COSTS, JUVENILE PROBATION, JUVENILE DETENTION, BAILIFFS, JUDICIAL COURT SUPPORT, SHERIFF INCLUDING ADMINISTRATION, DETECTIVE, PATROL, JAIL, CORONER, DISPATCH AND TASK FORCE, FIRE, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BUILDINGS AND MAINTENANCE, PARKS MAINTENANCE, PUBLIC HEALTH, COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS-ANIMAL CONTROL, COUNTYWIDE EXPENSES, LIBRARY, AIRPORT OPERATING, NATURAL RESOURCES, TRANSFERS, CONTINGENCY, AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION, SOCIAL SERVICES INCLUDING DONATIONS FUND, ROAD DEPARTMENT, AIRPORT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, SB74 TAX FUND, TOWNS OF LUND, MCGILL & RUTH, SENIOR

CENTER, INDUSTRIAL PARK, BUILDING & PLANNING, GOLF COURSE, AQUATIC CENTER  
INCLUDING SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, CHINA SPRINGS, AND CAMP SUCCESS

District Attorney Mike Wheable arrived at 1:28 p.m. Finance Director Elizabeth Frances advised she had formatted this item to include Department Heads as presenters; she reviewed a packet that was handed out. She noted we're spending \$116,022 of the General Fund Balance, which will leave 30% in there as is required. She explained her methodology for preparing the preliminary budget worksheet for today's meeting. She also clarified how the Central Service Allocations were figured.

Director Frances cited the new budget that was submitted by Cooperative Extension Coordinator Juan Carlos Cervantes, and felt he's trying to bring his budget down so it will be more balanced. He is requesting 2 positions, but she isn't sure how he got to the funding on those; she will meet with him to discuss his budget further. He does want to eliminate many things that were previously submitted in support of Contract Services; she feels if we go with the new tentative budget, it will work. Commissioner Shane Bybee advised he isn't comfortable dipping into the ending fund balance for this budget; he noted that office is "under water." Director Frances advised that she will have Coordinator Cervantes attend tomorrow's meeting to clear up the concerns.

Director Frances spoke to the reduction of a Sheriff's Dept. vehicle, in that we should maintain a replacement cycle for those vehicles to avoid having to replace a whole fleet all at once. She requested the Board to put a vehicle back in his budget; also, we should obtain an inventory from the Sheriff and proceed from there. Commissioner Travis Godon asked if there's a set protocol for replacing vehicles; Director Frances noted a formal bid must be obtained, then advertising, and the best price that's offered is taken that meet the specifications. Chairman Richard Howe advised he was on the Board when they had to purchase 4 Sheriff's vehicles; the Board at that time agreed they would keep a replacement schedule going so that wouldn't happen again in the future. Commissioner Steve Stork asked if we've ever checked with State Purchasing regarding buying new vehicles; WPC Sheriff Scott Henriod advised he does contact them for purchase information, but not for leasing, which costs more. Commissioner Stork requested the Sheriff to explore lease options for patrol vehicles; Sheriff Henriod agreed. Both Commissioners Bullis and Godon felt that lease options on a fleet tend to work out fiscally better than expected; Sheriff Henriod noted some of the downfalls, though, including mileage limits as well as wear and tear on the vehicles (such things as drilling holes in them to install cages, light bars, etc.), and those downfalls mean penalties. WPC Assessor Burton Hilton asked if some of our Net Proceeds of Minerals could be used to add just that one replacement vehicle back into the budget; Director Frances replied in the affirmative, but she isn't aware what the Net Proceeds figure would be at this time. She did note that budgets may be augmented. Commissioner Bullis felt that if it would save us money in the long run, a lease program might be better. Chairman Howe echoed Sheriff Henriod's concern that there would be a cap on mileage under a lease, and that with the road miles White Pine County has, that will mean penalties. He felt we should purchase the vehicles outright and stick with the replacement schedule, because public safety is too important to gamble with. Commissioners Stork and Bybee still want to see the leasing options pursued, and Commissioner Bybee liked that leased vehicles are under continuous warranty. The Board directed Director Frances to put both the Sheriff's Dept. vehicles back on the list, but to explore lease options for the future. Commissioner Bullis suggested getting historical data on average mileage for our existing vehicles. District Attorney Mike Wheable stated there may be some Net Proceeds funds left over from this year to carry over for this purpose.

Director Frances advised there are some interlocal agreements coming up that could affect our revenues. She continued that we've been approached by the Tourism & Recreation Board to provide HR services for them, and also by Mr. Rope Ashworth for the County to perform some financial services for the Tri-County Weed District program. D.A. Wheable suggested they could contract with a bookkeeper to take care of their books. Commissioner Bybee noted that the main question is who would do their books; if the County does it, then their name would need to be changed to White Pine County/Tri-County Weed District. Commissioner Stork advised he knows of a CPA who might be able to help.

Director Frances advised a Department Head meeting was held, and she's bringing back some concerns voiced during that meeting. One major concern was the talk about sunseting the franchise fee. She noted that wouldn't be a good idea because that was put in place by the State Dept. of Taxation as a stabilizing revenue for the County. We got that back into place, and it is helping to stabilize the budget. She continued that when we did the USDA loan application for the new Justice Complex, we had stated that we would use a portion of the increase from the franchise fee to pay for it. Another concern of the Dept. Heads was that their leave was going to be reduced; but they were assured that was not the case. Director Frances explained that short- and long-term disability can be used in lieu of sick leave when needed. She will be working with HR Director Timothy Bunch regarding PTO vs. annual/sick leave. The topic of a 4-day work schedule was met with mixed reviews; some thought it would be a disservice to the public to restrict days for being open. Others were concerned about the pay increases for the Finance Director and the Deputy District Attorneys; they felt that this would be a "morale killer" and it isn't fair and equitable. Further, those raises may

not be sustainable. Director Frances reminded the Dept. Heads that they are at-will employees; some felt that some of the Dept. Heads work harder and put in more time than others. The Dept. Heads also felt insurance costs are something that need to be looked at. She continued that a discussion was held regarding certain positions and rates of pay; Public Works Director Bill Calderwood had advised some of his employees haven't had a raise in many years. Aquatic Center Director Kristi Rozich advised she's having a hard time recruiting seasonal employees at the current rate of pay; she will be bringing forward some incentive ideas to the Commission soon. Chairman Richard Howe reminded the Board that Lifeguards have to pay \$120 to take a training course that's not refundable, plus the low pay isn't very attractive. HR Director Timothy Bunch reminded the Board that the Lifeguards get reimbursed after graduation from their training; he did note that McDonald's employees receive \$2-3 higher than the Aquatic Center. At this time, Director Frances shared some positive comments regarding the "4-10's" work schedule. She noted Mt. Wheeler Power has a 4/10 schedule in the Summer and a 5/8 schedule in the Winter. The cost savings occurs when employees take their leave; as she explained, savings might be seen with having no operations for one day of the week. The School District is another example, they save by not running the buses one day a week; however, they didn't find much of an operational savings, she noted. Director Bunch clarified for the Board that they were looking at educational requirements to justify pay raises; however, in looking at the 4/10s, retention, and morale, it was a mixed review. When hiring we need to consider retention and morale; he asked how we could tap into the younger generation and get them to work for the County? Younger employees are having a difficult time affording insurance for their families. During the discussion, Commissioner Steve Stork was willing to forgo the 4/10s and do the PTO instead. Assessor Hilton is a proponent of finding affordable family coverage. While he's not a fan of retiree healthcare, we are offering it; if we were to get rid of that it might make insurance more affordable.

Public Works Director Bill Calderwood noted that the Ag. District 13's top priority was the grandstand repair; he's requesting the Board to add that back in, and remove another request instead. During the discussion it was clarified that it is the concession stand repair, not the grandstand repair, that is their primary concern; it was noted that is indeed included in the tentative budget.

WPC Clerk Nichole Baldwin reported to the Board that she had received an updated quote from PDI. During the discussion, District Attorney Mike Wheable offered to ask District Court Judge Steve Dobrescu to tomorrow's regular Commission meeting to explain. It was noted that paper copies can be destroyed, and therefore digitizing them would be safer.

Finance Director Elizabeth Frances advised she had received some revised quotes from the Sheriff's Dept. These included a Sierra Electronics cost of \$96,642 and a recording system by CallWorks costing \$134,742; that recording system is related to the 911 system, it was noted. Director Frances will do more research on this. WPC Sheriff Scott Henriod advised this is for a service contract and updates are needed.

Director Frances stated that each time adjustments are made to the budgets, the figures will change; she will try to get a final view of the tentative numbers for tomorrow's Commission meeting.

Chairman Richard Howe asked that the Board take another look at the Library request for a Page position. He feels it would be cheaper to get them another position as opposed to getting a new carpet; he added that since ShopKo is closing the Library might be getting more business, i.e. faxing requests, etc. He felt the Page position request is valid. Commissioner Travis Godon felt the County isn't responsible for providing printing and copying services to the public when people can purchase their own computers and printers. Commissioner Steve Stork felt that we should provide that service, but it doesn't need to be fast or expedient. HR Director Bunch advised of the transient population that "camps out" in the Library and the fact that all the Library staff are female; he cited the issue of safety. Library Director Lori Romero noted there are no "panic buttons" or security devices in the Library. Commissioner Ian Bullis pointed out they still have \$30,000 to cut to stay within their budget; he would be include to deny the Page position and install some panic buttons instead. Commissioner Shane Bybee liked the panic button idea. Further, he felt that the Library trying to fill the gap in the community of printing and copying services was a bad idea, way beyond our scope. Social Services Director Desiree Barnson advised that she sends many of her clients to the Library for the copying and printing services, which may in fact comprise 60% of their business. She felt there are other things that could be done to address safety issues there, but the indigent people do need the services the Library provides. Director Romero added that the print shop downtown is often not open, and there's a huge need for those services. She often only has 2 employees at a time in the Library, which means they are spread thin and people end up having to wait. Commissioner Bybee still felt that even though the needs exist, that doesn't mean the County should take that on. Commissioner Bullis added that the income from the copying, faxing, etc. doesn't bring in a lot of income. Chairman Howe asked the Commissioners if they wanted to add in the Page position: That request failed 4:1.

Director Frances and the Board reviewed the Preliminary Budget Worksheets for April 9, 2019 Commission Meeting Position Change Summary, line by line. The only change to be made is that all of the Fire District items should be eliminated from the budget. That translates to \$104,404 being subtracted from the subtotals list, which changes the



total to \$336,820. Commissioner Shane Bybee also requested to reduce the Ag. Extension's request for intern positions, \$68,702, which would further change the total to \$268,118. Director Frances summarized that the 2<sup>nd</sup> vehicle request from the Sheriff's Dept. would be added back in, and the Ag. Extension request for interns would be reduced. Commissioner Travis Godon asked if the \$28,999 for the Emergency Management request for a half-time grant writer, to be paid by grants, was our match or from the special revenue fund for the grant writer; Director Frances responded that is from grants. She also clarified that the EMS biller position, once part of the Fire District, would have a match but that would be partially funded by grants.

Commissioner Steve Stork asked WPC Treasurer Catherine Bakaric if she is giving up all the SNPLMA work; she replied in the affirmative. She continued that CEDS (Community Economic Development) is going on, and they are currently in discussions about how to proceed with a core committee. She has some work to do with CEDS and also the 2020 Census. She added that she received a grant from CDBG in the amount of \$200,000 for nuisance abatements; but if we wish to apply for future CDBG funding, someone needs to attend the proper training in order to apply. Treasurer Bakaric is discussing who would be going with Director Frances to the training, but no name has been selected to date. She has a lot going on now and expects it will be past June before the duties can be transferred over to a new person. She doesn't know what the impact will be of not having a complete CEDS process done at this time, but it should be completed as soon as possible. She will be sending out surveys soon, after they are further pared down. Director Frances commented that only about 20% of people take online surveys. Commissioner Ian Bullis offered to distribute surveys to his audience at his White Pine Living website.

Per legal advice from District Attorney Mike Wheable, no action was taken on the above agenda item.

#### DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL TO GIVE DIRECTION TO THE FINANCE DIRECTOR REGARDING ITEMS HEARD DURING THE SPECIAL JOINT MEETING

Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to approve the budget with modifications as discussed. Commissioner Shane Bybee made a motion to approve the budget with the following modifications: To add 1 Sheriff's Dept. vehicle back in and delete the positions from the Ag. Extension budget. Commissioner Shane Bybee made the motion; Commissioner Travis Godon seconded. Motion carried.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

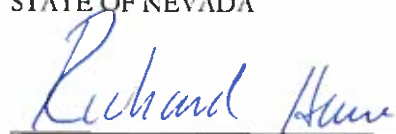
Commissioner Steve Stork noted that public comment on the Silver State Trail is currently going on, and he encouraged people to go to the BLM website and submit their comments.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 3:04 p.m., Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Steve Stork seconded. Motion carried.

WHITE PINE COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION  
STATE OF NEVADA

BY:



CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:



WPC CLERK OF THE BOARD