

**IN A REGULAR MEETING OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY COMMISSION & SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH THE FIRE COMMISSION HELD ON MAY 12, 2021 IN THE COUNTY LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM IN ELY, NEVADA**

**The Following Were Present:**

**County Commission**  
**Richard Howe, Chairman**  
**Travis Godon, Vice-Chairman (Zoom)**  
**Ian Bullis, Commissioner**  
**Shane Bybee, Commissioner**  
**Laurie L. Carson, Commissioner**  
**Nichole Baldwin, Clerk of the Board**  
**Jill Perez, Deputy Clerk**

**County Officials:**

**Sherriff Scott Henriod**  
**Bill Calderwood, Public Works Director**  
**Tim Bunch, Human Resources Director**  
**Brett North, White Pine County Fire Chief**  
**James S. Beecher, District Attorney**  
**Elizabeth Francis, finance Director**  
**Mike Johnson, IT Specialist**

**Also Present:**

**George Chachas, George Town Media**  
**Jim Alworth**  
**Andy Britton, Fiore Gold**  
**Tori Martinez, Fiore Gold**  
**Fred Fisher, Mtn. View Subdivision**  
**Pat Stork, Ely FD Fire Chief**

**Present via Zoom:**

**Geri Wopschall, Lori Romero (Library Director), Caroline McIntosh, Eldridge, Kristi Rozich (Aquatic Center Director), Marietta Henry, Holly Gatzke, Susan Jensen, Ely, Tammy Szewezk and others**

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**Chairman Richard Howe called the meeting to order at 9:08 am. District Attorney James S. Beecher led the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE/SILENT INVOCATION**

**This was duly observed.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Fred Fisher addressed the Board. He is representing Mountain View Subdivision in regards to Steptoe Park and the surrounding area. He is voicing his concern regarding the damages to the parks, most recently to Broadbent Park. There is a need for decent lighting for Steptoe Park mainly for security. Mr. Fisher presented to the Board photos of damage that has been done to the Steptoe Park. There have been all kinds of damage to the park including kids racing their motor bikes in and around the park to guns being fired in the park. Mr. Fisher gave his phone number, 775-293-1217. Chairman Richard Howe stated the Park is a County Park and the streets are City streets. This is a joint effort, it is an ongoing problem with the community.

George Chachas addressed the Board in regards to the last meeting held on April 28<sup>th</sup> concerning the sale of property. Chairman Howe stated street lights would not be a requirement. Mr. Chachas stated Chairman Howe was grossly misinformed and demanded to know who he spoke with. He stated he went to a Regional Planning Commission meeting and spoke with Buzz Rosevear. According to Mr. Chachas, Mr. Rosevear stated street lights and fire hydrants should be installed every 500 ft. per building code. Public safety is number one and he feels the Board is ignoring it. On the agenda item 1B1, the Board is to consider the approval of the road assistance agreement Western Oil/Western Gold. NRS does not allow the County to assist with any private business. He asserted the company caused damage to the road and they should be responsible and hire their own contractors and not use County tax payers' equipment and employees. Regarding agenda item 2A1a, the Board is to consider the renewal of the Lease of the property for the Golf Course for an additional 30 years. He demanded to know if the Golf Course paid their water bill, if they have not, it is his belief this item should be tabled until the bill is paid in full. He reminded the Board that golf is a luxury and not a necessity. He stated the County needs to petition a newspaper that is fair and balanced. Chairman Howe stated that is not County business and advised Mr. Chachas to bring something new to the table.

Commissioner Laurie L. Carson gave an update on the Comins Lake improvement. Construction will start May 14<sup>th</sup> and NDOW will be looking for volunteers and different employees. All information will be on the NDOW website.

Andy Britton, Fiore Gold, addressed the Board. This month will be their 5 year anniversary. They are up to around 150 employees. The company will be dedicating their phase 3 leach pad. Mr. Britton expressed his gratitude to the Board for their continued support from the County.

**1. NOTICE OF TIMED AGENDA ITEMS:**

**The Chairman temporarily recessed the regular County Commission Meeting for a joint meeting of the White Pine County Fire Commission.**

**A. 9:05 A.M. JOINT FIRE COMMISSION MEETING**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

George Chachas addressed the Board. In regards to Ave D, he still has not received a response. Chairman Howe interjected and stated Mr. Chachas had brought up the same thing and requested he bring something new to the table.

**1) Discussion/Update on Fire District Progress. Brett North, Fire Chief & Pat Stork, Ely FD Fire Chief**

Fire Chief Brett North addressed the Board. He went through a brief discussion on the back up material. He did point out Station 1 now has a volunteer group with 11 members. Station 1 is working with Ely Fire Department with some ongoing training.

Ely Fire Chief Pat Stork addressed the Board stating everything has been running pretty smooth. He went through a brief discussion on the back up material. Trainings are done every Thursday. They are doing some Zoom trainings with EMS. All calls have been running very smooth. Lackawanna participates in all trainings.

**\*2) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval to retroactively adjust increase step increase for District Fire Chief Brett North from Step 1 to Step 2, effective 4/1/21**

Human Resources Director Tim Bunch stated when step increases were done he forgot to include the Fire Chief North. Commissioner Ian Bullis made the motion to approve. Commissioner Carson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**\*3) Discussion/For Possible Action: Direction or Approval related to Revenues and Departments in the FY2022 budget including: Commission, County Manager, Clerk, Recorder including special revenue budgets, Assessor including special revenue budget, Treasurer, Elections, Information Technology, Finance, Human Resources, Countywide, 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, 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, Tri-County Weed, Building & Planning, Golf Course, Aquatic Center, China Springs, Camp Success & Various Grant Budgets. Elizabeth Frances, Finance Director**

Finance Director Elizabeth Frances addressed the Board. She gave a brief update on all information that was in the backup material. She mentioned the amendments to the tentative budget for the record and changes for the employee benefits for workers compensation and health insurance to reflect actual renewal rates. There was an increase in the Public Health Officer contract by \$5,000 a month for ongoing contract obligations. There was an increase in the budget for a laptop for the Sheriff Department. There was a decrease for the golf course water for the agreement with the City. At the request of Director Frances, item 2C1a was opened.

Director Frances is still speaking with different realtors for office space for the Recorder and Treasurer. She will have more information at the next Commission meeting. She is still recommending the County Manager position. She explained the budget changes in the backup material were based on the recommendations from Commissioner Bullis and Vice Chairman Godon and would be able to accommodate a pay scale for the County Manager position. She explained it has not been added into the budget at this time but she strongly recommends the position be reconsidered.

Fire Chief North addressed the Board stating the main focus right now will be electric heat at the volunteer fire stations. Right now they are using propane. Not a lot of big stuff needs to be done with most to be done in-house as maintenance gets around to it. There are a couple of items that will need to be brought up to code. Finance Director Frances recommends none of this be put in the budget, but put it in the capital improvement plans through grant applications.

Holly Gatzke of UNR addressed the Board via Zoom. The cooperative extension budget covers the half time employee, basic operating costs in the office, travel expenses, programs, and extended activities which includes the after school programs and it has the opportunity to upgrade the IT department for video conferences. There is a grant that covers distance learning. They are looking at hiring a Livestock Specialist across the state for different county input. By hiring the Livestock Specialist, it would benefit the 4H programs in White Pine County. Chairman Howe asked if it would be possible to send someone over during the high season for about a week to assist with the 4H program. Ms. Gatzke stated she will look into it, but can't make any promises. She asked for feedback on the key areas the County sees needing more support to help her identify what type of staff to send over. They are at 77% state budget cuts since 2008. Ms. Gatzke mentioned they are using County money to pay the cost for temporary positions for extension educators and they will be doing this until they get the State funding back in about one to two years. At that point, they would have to post for a permanent position and rehire. There was a brief discussion over the budget and if there could be a loan from White Pine County instead of out of pocket. Ms. Gatzke cannot make any type of agreements right now when it comes to funding and thinks they would be interested in making an agreement with White Pine County as long as it has to do with White Pine County. District Attorney James S. Beecher inquired if the County does not go forward with the temporary position, would the University only need two offices instead of the three? Ms. Gatzke stated at this time they won't need the office space due to not having the capacity to hire for this position. Vice Chairman Godon addressed the Board via Zoom stating it would be difficult to get someone out here for a temporary job. Director Frances did inform the Board the money would not affect the general fund and it will come out of the Ag fund. When the lease is redone, it should be flexible. The next meeting will be for the final budget and if anything needs to be done, it should be done now.

There was a discussion amongst the Commissioners whether or not to move forward with hiring a County Manager. It was decided to put the discussion back to the table when all Commissioners were present.

**\*4) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of monthly financial reports for April 2021. Elizabeth Frances, Finance Director**

Commissioner Carson made the motion to approve. Commissioner Bullis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**\*5) 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 or adjust for approved grants/agency funds. Elizabeth Frances, Finance Director**

Commissioner Bullis made the motion to approve. Commissioner Carson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**\*6) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of volunteer Fire Stations capital improvement projects. Fire Chief Brett North**

Commissioner Bullis made the motion to approve. Commissioner Carson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**\*7) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval to award the bid for four (4) cardiac monitors/defibrillators. Fire Chief Brett North**

Fire Chief North recommends the Zoll monitor/defibrillators. Commissioner Bullis made the motion to approve in the amount of \$103,636.76. Commissioner Carson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**\*8) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of minutes from the following Fire Commission Meeting:**

- **Special Joint April 7, 2021**
- **April 14, 2021**

Commissioner Carson made the motion to approve. Commissioner Bullis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None was made.

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

#### **C. 10:00 A.M. CDBG PUBLIC HEARING**

**1) PUBLIC HEARING #2- Discussion Only: Discussion and public input on possible activities included in applications for funding under State Community Development Block Grant- Corona Virus (CDBG-CV) Program rounds #2 & #3. (July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022). Elizabeth Frances, Finance Director**

Director Frances addressed the Board and made the disclosure that the county has been receiving funding since 1989 and this information is on the county website under economic development with a guide that contains more information. Due to the quick turnaround time, the information is in the back up material. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> round. This hearing was advertised for the past 2 weeks and we have received no public comment.

#### **2. ITEMS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

##### **A. COUNTY COMMISSION**

**1. Commission Chairman, Richard Howe**

**\*a) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approve providing notice to the City of Ely that White Pine County intends to renew Lease of Real Property (Golf Course) for an additional Thirty (30) year period, as provided in the Lease**

Chairman Howe addressed the Board. KGHM is paying for the assessment for the well on hole #5 so the County can re-drill the well and update the pump. It will be County water with the County owning the water rights to allow the Golf Course to be able to water 71 acres. Commissioner Carson asked if there is a way to amend or reopen this at a later date. DA Beecher stated if this is voted on at any time, the parties can come together and redo the contract if the Commission decides. Commissioner Bullis made the motion to approve. Vice Chairman Godon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**2. Commissioner Shane Bybee**

**\*a) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of the resignation of Shane Bybee as liaison to the White Pine County Golf Course Advisory Board as well as subsequent liaison trades as a result of this action**

Commissioner Bullis is interested in swapping with Commissioner Shane Bybee. Commissioner Carson made the motion to approve. Vice Chairman Godon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**B. ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**1. Nichole Baldwin, County Clerk**

**\*a) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of a contract for a service extension with ServiceElite from IBM in the amount of \$1,138.80 for the time period of 5/1/2021 to 1/17/2022**

County Clerk Nichole Baldwin addressed the Board. IBM is phasing out and they are offering less support. This contract entails phone support for the IBM supporter and she added that they plan on bringing the server to the new Courthouse. After the move, the Clerk's office may be dropping IBM. Commissioner Bullis made the motion to approve. Commissioner Carson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**\*b) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval to select either Susan Jensen or Jill Perez for the vacant seat on the White Pine County Golf Advisory Board representing Women's golf**

Clerk Baldwin addressed the Board. There is one vacant seat and two interested candidates. Susan Jensen addressed the Board via Zoom. She has been with the Ladies Golf Association for 20 years. She organizes and sets up the Ladies Golf Tournaments and she has organized and ran a fundraising tournament in her mother's name for the last 15 years. Jill Perez addressed the Board. She has been on several committees for the past four years and she expressed her love for the game, but feels Mrs. Jensen is better suited for the position. Commissioner Bullis made the motion to appoint Susan Jensen to the Golf Advisory Board representing Women's Golf. Commissioner Carson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## C. DEPARTMENT HEADS

### 1. Bill Calderwood, Public Works Director

#### \*a) Discussion/For Possible Action: Update with possible direction on the White Pine County Historical Courthouse Building Renovation report

Public Works Director Bill Calderwood addressed the Board in regards to 2C1a. The report from TSK is the Courthouse can be brought up to current standards for \$7 million. This price does not include construction cost as far as the offices. Things like carpet will not be included. He went through the report and he noticed the contractors did not include any underground plumbing and they didn't recognize anything with the front steps. For abatement recommendations, Director Calderwood recommends a lead paint and asbestos survey right away. Director Frances pointed out a backup document entitled "Information on the Historic Courthouse Renovation." She went through NRS 354 and spoke on the projects and transfers that can be done under this NRS. She did remind the Board, there is grant funding for remodeling of historic buildings available. There was a discussion on how and what can be done to get the extra funding for the Historic Courthouse Renovation. Chairman Howe suggested this topic be tabled for about 6 months. Director Calderwood stated he will have a building layout with estimates from the next building meeting for the next Commission meeting.

### 2. Brett North, Emergency Management Director

#### \*a) Discussion For Possible Action: Ratification of Grant Application Amendment Made by Brett North/ Tabatha Hamilton To The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) - FY2021 Program From The Department Of Public Safety's Division Of Emergency Management For Emergency Management Supplies And Equipment that will increase the application amount to \$33,228.00. The Required County Match Amount Is \$ 33,228.00 And Will Be Provide Through In-Kind Emergency Management General Fund Wages

Commissioner Bullis made the motion to approve. Commissioner Carson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### 3. Tim Bunch, Human Resources Director

#### \*a) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of a seasonal golf course maintenance job description in order to satisfy basic requirements at the Golf Course

Human Resources Director Tim Bunch addressed the Board. He spoke with Director Calderwood and one of the solutions they came up with is to allow High School students who know how to drive a riding mower apply for the position. They would not be operating any County vehicles and will not need a GED or High School Diploma. This would only be for the Golf Course position and only for the seasonal position. Commissioner Carson made the motion to approve. Commissioner Bullis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### 4. Elizabeth Frances, Finance Director

#### \*a) Discussion/for Possible Action: Ratification of Grant Application to the Community Development Block Grant Program - Corona Virus (CBDG CV) for funding of Public Health Officer Wages in an amount not to exceed \$58,800.00 for the period

**of July 1, 2021 through December 31st, 2022. The required County match amount is \$0**

Director Frances addressed the Board and asked the Chairman to open items A thru E as presented. Commissioner Bullis made the motion to approve items A thru E. Commissioner Carson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**\*b) Discussion/for Possible Action: Ratification of Grant Application to the Community Development Block Grant Program - Corona Virus (CBDG CV) for funding to lease a vehicle from State Leasing for the Public Health Office for 18 months, in an amount not to exceed \$10,609.00 for the period of July 1, 2021 through December 31st, 2022. The required County match amount is \$0**

See item a.

**\*c) Discussion/for Possible Action: Ratification of Grant Application to the Community Development Block Grant Program - Corona Virus (CBDG CV) for funding of Items to assist tourism events in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00 for the period of July 1, 2021 through December 31st, 2022. The required County match amount is \$0**

See item a.

**\*d) Discussion/for Possible Action: Ratification of Grant Application to the Community Development Block Grant Program - Corona Virus (CBDG CV) for funding of PPE to be stockpiled in an amount not to exceed \$15,331.00 for the period of July 1, 2021 through December 31st, 2022. The required County match amount is \$0**

See item a.

**\*e) Discussion/for Possible Action: Ratification of Grant Application to the Community Development Block Grant Program - Corona Virus (CBDG CV) for funding of a POD tent set up for Public Health in an amount not to exceed \$7,470.00 for the period of July 1, 2021 through December 31st, 2022. The required County match amount is \$0**

See item a.

**\*f) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of monthly financial reports for April 2021**

Commissioner Carson made the motion to approve. Commissioner Bullis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**\*g) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval three or five year agreement for internet services with Geoverse (formerly WestNet) including nonrecurring and monthly recurring amounts as contained in the backup documentation or as may be presented in the Commission meeting**

Director Frances addressed the Board. Proposals are in the back up documents. Director Frances would recommend going with one of the contracts form Geoverse due to LV.NET has



a really high upward cost. Commissioner Bullis made the motion to approve for the 3 years with Geoverse. Commissioner Carson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**\*h) Discussion/For Possible Action: Ratification of two month temporary agreement with Geoverse (formerly WestNet) at \$399 per month for internet connectivity from Administration Building to Courthouse to overcome existing line-of-sight issue**

At the request from Director Frances, item l was also opened. Director Frances addressed the Board. The County was offered a two month agreement to connect these two buildings, then after that do a 3 to 5 year agreement. Commissioner Bullis made the motion to approve items h and l. Commissioner Carson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**\*i) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of BLM lease amendments number 7 providing for the installation of telephone services in the amount of \$2,350 and additional infrastructure work on the BLM modular office in the amount of \$99,755.15 as defined in the scope of work and number 8 authorizing the payment by BLM to White Pine County the amount of \$2,350 for the completed installation of the telecommunication infrastructure**

Director Frances addressed the Board. This is an amendment to the lease by BLM, they are authorizing White Pine County to do certain work and BLM will reimburse the work once it is completed. Commissioner Bullis made the motion to approve. Commissioner Carson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**\*j) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of Resolution 2021-33 to utilize \$1,107 from contingency to cover the cost of a power meter replacement for the airport**

Commissioner Carson made the motion to approve. Commissioner Bullis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**\*k) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of public defender contracts as submitted for Jane Eberhardy, Kirsty Pickering and Richard Sears at a base cost of \$164,430 each plus additional for costs for their individual company subscriptions to Lexus-Nexus and/or Westlaw, \$125 per hour for complex litigation, and \$100 per hour for domestic violence cases originating in the City of Ely or as may be discussed and amended during the Commission meeting**

Director Frances addressed the Board. There are differences between the 2 contracts and she has some concern with the language change. DA Beecher suggested the Board table the item to include public defenders to be present as well as all Commissioners. Commissioner Bullis made the motion to table this item. Commissioner Carson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**\*l) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of a one to three year agreement with Geoverse (formerly WestNet) at \$399 to \$499 per month plus \$0 to \$5,250 nonrecurring costs for internet connectivity from Administration Building to Courthouse**

See item h.

### **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 made the motion to approve. Commissioner Bullis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **4. NOTICE OF UNTIMED ITEMS**

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

- **Special Meeting April 7, 2021**
- **April 14, 2021**

Commissioner Carson made the motion to approve. Commissioner Bullis seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Director Bunch addressed the Board. He asked the Board for consideration for Cost of living increase for exempt employees who have been working for WPC and have not received a cost of living increase before considering hiring an IT Manager, County Manager, and Ag Extension.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Bullis made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 am. Commissioner Carson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**WHITE PINE COUNTY  
STATE OF NEVADA**

**BY:**

Richard Hurr  
**CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:**

W. Baldein  
**WPC CLERK OF THE BOARD**