

**IN A REGULAR MEETING OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY COMMISSION HELD ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 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  
Susan Lujan, Deputy Clerk

County Officials:

Martin Troutt, Public Works Lead  
Sheriff Scott Henriod  
Dr. Daren Kunz, PHO  
Dr. Mike Mugosa  
Fire Chief, Brett North  
Present via Zoom:  
Many attendees that were not documented

Also Present:

Greg Rivero, Solaris  
George Chachas  
Stacey Sept, NRHA  
Roger Mancebo, NRHA  
Rose Cook, NRHA  
Beth Dunning, NRHA  
Bill Brewer, NRHA  
Deana Zakar, Kinross Bald Mtn. Mine  
Josh Roderick, Kinross Bald Mtn. Mine

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Chairman Richard Howe called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Mike Wheable led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE/SILENT INVOCATION**

This was duly observed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

George Chachas noted item 1A4 for a road maintenance agreement, but there was no backup material. All road maintenance should be done by a licensed contractor and the county should not be competing against the public sector; Western Oil created the problem and they should fund the solution, not taxpayers. He further noted an agenda item regarding health concerns and he began ranting on Commissioner Bullis not wearing a mask and that he should resign if he can't do his job. Item 2C4A is for a SNPLMA grant at Nevada Northern Railway, which should be rejected for an indoor arena or event center, instead. This would enhance "visitorship" at the railroad as well. Heritage Park needs to be scrapped as parks should not be near a truck stop. He mentioned nepotism at the Railroad and called for transparency. Time was called.

Chairman Howe announced that item D under Public Health will not be handled today per the requester.

At 9:09 a.m., Chairman Richard Howe recessed the regular Commission meeting and opened the Road Commission meeting.

At 9:30 a.m., Chairman Richard Howe adjourned the Road Commission meeting and reconvened the regular Commission meeting.

**9:30 A.M. – PUBLIC HEARING**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ABANDONMENT AND TOTAL VACATION/DEED OF ROAD AND FULL EASEMENT/RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THAT *CERTAIN PORTION* OF COUNTY ROAD 19 AS IDENTIFIED IN THE ATTACHED PARCEL MAP, IN EXCHANGE FOR ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATED PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY/ROAD EASEMENT ADJACENT, IN A MORE SUITABLE LOCATION FOR SAFE PUBLIC TRAVEL AND REDUCED MAINTENANCE COSTS, AFFECTING THOSE PARCELS PURSUANT TO NRS 403.170(3)**

Greg Rivero from Solaris was invited up. DA Mike Wheable explained the location and the presence of an artesian well in the middle of the road causing vehicles to be pulled out over the years. It has proven to be a cost to the County. An alternate road has been developed up, over, and around along with a right of way created from Gleason Creek Rd to make passage for the public safer and lower maintenance costs for the county and benefits Kerry Sprouse as well. Greg Rivero mentioned his goal is to vacate the entire roadways on the original map recorded 4/2005. It will be followed up with a map that relocates the road with the right of way and meets county requirements. The new route needs a little more work and new signage will go up, per the DA. The distance of the roadway is about 3/4s of a mile. Commissioner Bybee noted that corner has been a mess for years with someone from the BLM having to spend the night out there in the past. The public was invited to make comments. George Chachas asked for clarification on the affected areas and Greg assisted him.

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF ABANDONMENT AND TOTAL VACATION OF THE FULL ROAD EASEMENT/RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THAT *CERTAIN PORTION* OF COUNTY ROAD 19 AS IDENTIFIED IN THE ATTACHED PARCEL MAP, LOCALLY KNOWN AS BOTHWICK ROAD, NEAR THE JUNCTION WITH THE GLEASON CREEK COUNTY ROAD, TO INCLUDE APPROVAL OF A DEED TO KERRY SPROUSE, ET AL OF THESE COUNTY PROPERTY RIGHTS, IN EXCHANGE FOR AN ADJACENT COMMENSURATE ALTERNATIVE LOCATION, DESIGNATED PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY/ROAD EASEMENT TO BE GRANTED TO THE COUNTY, IN A MORE SUITABLE LOCATION FOR SAFE PUBLIC TRAVEL AND REDUCED MAINTENANCE COSTS. SAID ABANDONMENT/VACATION TO AFFECT AND ADJUST THOSE PARCELS APN 009-480-01 THROUGH APN 009-480-29, PURSUANT TO NRS 403.170**

Commissioner Godon moved to approve and Commissioner Bybee seconded. Motion passed.

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF A NEW PARCEL MAP, AND TO ACCEPT A DEED FROM KERRY SPROUSE, ET AL UNTO THE COUNTY OF WHITE PINE TO INCLUDE, AND FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF A FULL ROAD EASEMENT/RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR A NEW RE-ROUTED PLACEMENT OF COUNTY ROAD 19 THROUGH AND OVER THOSE PARCELS IDENTIFIED IN THE ATTACHED PARCEL MAP, FOR AN**

**ADJACENT COMMENSURATE ALTERNATIVE LOCATION, DESIGNATED PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY/ROAD EASEMENT IN A MORE SUITABLE LOCATION FOR SAFE PUBLIC TRAVEL AND REDUCED MAINTENANCE COSTS. SAID ACCEPTANCE OF PARCEL MAP INCLUDING THE NEW ROAD LOCATION TO AFFECT AND ADJUST THOSE PARCELS APN 009-480-01 THROUGH APN 009-480-29. SAID ROAD IDENTIFIED IN THE PARCEL MAP WILL BE A RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR PUBLIC AND UTILITY PURPOSES AND NOT TO BE ACCEPTED AS A MAIN COUNTY ROAD AT THIS TIME, UNTIL THIS PORTION OF ROAD CONSTRUCTED TO COUNTY STANDARDS AND PRESENTED TO THE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR ADOPTION**

Commissioner Godon made the motion and Commissioner Carson seconded; motion passed.

**10:00 A.M. – RURAL DESERT SOUTHWEST BROWNFIELDS COALITION (RDSBC)**

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF A LETTER OF COMMITMENT FROM WHITE PINE COUNTY TO CONTINUE THE COUNTY'S PARTICIPATION AS A LONG-STANDING MEMBER OF THE RDSBC AND TO SUPPORT SUBMISSION OF A U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FISCAL YEAR 2021 BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT COALITION GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE RDSBC**

Lorina Dellinger from Nye County is present via Zoom. They will be applying for the 2021 Brownsfield Coalition Grant. She's asking for a letter of commitment to include which is in the backup. Commissioner Bybee moved to approve and Commissioner Bullis seconded and the motion passed. Ms. Dellinger thanked the Board.

At 10:30 a.m., Chairman Richard Howe temporarily recessed the regular County Commission meeting for a meeting of the White Pine County Board of Public Health. Dr. Kunz, Public Health Officer, called the meeting to order at 10:35 am.

At 10:54 am, PHO Dr. Kunz adjourned the Special Board of Public Health meeting and Chairman Howe reconvened the regular County Commission meeting.

**10:45 A.M. – ELY SHOSHONE TRIBE**

**DISCUSSION ONLY: REGARDING THE ELY SHOSHONE TRIBE'S REQUEST TO PLACE COUNTY OWNED REAL PROPERTY PARCEL #01049007 IN A LAND TRUST**

Shania Marques is present as the Culture Representative for the Ely Shoshone Tribe. The land in question is located behind the police station and contains members of the McQueen family. DA Mike Wheable explained what can be done; they need to identify the parcel and set it aside in a land trust to the family. The trust would be in perpetuity. The land trade could be done to deed the land in order to preserve it. This is just for discussion, but can go forward if the Commission has an appetite for it. Commissioner Laurie Carson remembered that previously this was stalled due to cost and knowing the exact location of the remains. DA Wheable told Shania that the County is interested in moving forward on this request. It is his desire for the Tribe to pay for the survey and the map and Shania agreed. This will be scheduled for a public hearing and approval. Shania asked about more bodies being buried there and the DA responded that some statutes need to be looked at to dedicate that as an actual cemetery. The process is cumbersome and had been done recently in Lund. Shania further noted the parcel is located near a drainage ditch that has been eroding away and the

concern exists that one day, bones would emerge. The DA is interested in the outcome of a study of drainage ditches and how this will develop. The Board thanked Shania.

### **11:00 A.M. – NATURAL RESOURCES**

#### **DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL REGARDING A WORK ORDER AMENDMENT FOR FERC COMMENTS TO THE WHITE PINE PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT**

Via Zoom, Jeremy Drew from RCI presented this item, which is a follow-up on the referenced project. A comment period will be open thru the end of October. After a preliminary review of their documents and having discussions with PLUAC and the Water Advisory Committee, there are still details to be flushed out regarding water rights. Per Finance Director Frances, there are still adequate funds available for Natural Resources. She offered to provide an update on funding in the future. Commissioner Godon moved to approve and Commissioner Bybee seconded; this item passed.

#### **DISCUSSION ONLY: INFORMATION ONLY REGARDING THE WHITE PINE COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCE AND PUBLIC LAND ISSUES TRACKING LIST**

Chairman Howe opened up items 2 and 3 together per Commissioner Carson's request. Jeremy Drew reminded the Board of a recent comment submission and thanked them for their support. A hearing is scheduled in White Pine County for basin designation orders on 6 different locations in the county on 10/13/20. 2 power line projects are happening. Grazing updates are coming forward with a draft later this year. An application for a solar project in Jake's Valley has been submitted. He's open to suggestions for additions to the list.

#### **DISCUSSION/UPDATE ON THE STATE ENGINEER'S BASIN DESIGNATION FOR WHITE PINE COUNTY**

Jeremy Drew from RCI explained the State Engineer originally proposed hearings for 2 basins in August. The good news is these hearing will be held in Ely, but now its up to 6 basins. It will be held in the Library Conference Room which cannot accommodate a lot of public participation. Oral comments will be taken on 10/13/20 and written comments will be due 11/2/20. He wants the County to express their concerns. He can put together another task order amendment if necessary. Commissioner Carson noted that the State Engineer's office failed to attempt to coordinate for a larger venue and notices have already been published. The Library does have the ability to stream the meeting and she'd like to explore that. Jeremy is happy to attend the 10/13 hearing and the Commission Meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> to give an update.

### **11:30 A.M. – UPDATE FROM KINROSS BALD MOUNTAIN**

#### **PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION/UPDATE ON THE JUNIPER PROJECT**

Josh Roderick and Deana Zakar from Bald Mountain are here to update the Commission on the Juniper Project. Josh begins with a brief overview of the Bald Mountain Mine, which is located in White Pine County. They have about 600 employees not including contractors. In 2019 the gold production was 188,000 Au ounces. Kinross acquired this property in 2016. He emphasized the importance of putting people first, especially during the pandemic. Their 2<sup>nd</sup> priority is their environmental footprint which they strive for to be as limited as possible. They feel passionate about empowering local communities and generating socioeconomic

value. Deana noted Suzanne Featherston had a baby and is no longer with Kinross. She ran down a history of socioeconomic benefits that have come from Kinross and their efforts including the fact that 58% of the mine's total spending is done locally. They contribute over \$38 million in public taxes as well which have local impacts. This equates to 70% of their footprint positively focused on White Pine, Elko and Eureka counties. She further noted many donations to local organizations that total over \$300,000 specifically for programs in WPC. They donate around \$75,000 annually to local programs. Chairman Howe brought up vendors and contractors that the mine uses; he'd like the mine to focus on using local businesses.

Josh Roderick hopped back to the Juniper Project and explained it is an expansion project that focuses on the north operations area to expand pits, facilities and infrastructure. It would increase the footprint of the mine by about 3,900 acres. He added there is no dewatering or projected pit lakes in this project. He reviewed the internal process at Kinross for this process. Josh noted the key outcomes are to maintain the mule deer movement areas to minimize effects on wildlife habitat, minimize disturbances and limit visual effects, while complying with standards. The project has to go thru the BLM NEPA process. The BLM will be drafting an EIS and that will begin mid 2021 and conclude in 2022. This project expands the life of the mine from 2023 to 2040. Commissioner Ian Bullis asked for contacts for a developer to develop new housing. Deana Zakar stated approximately 9-10% of Kinross employees live in WPC.

## **ITEMS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS COUNTY COMMISSION**

### **LAURIE L. CARSON, COMMISSIONER**

#### **DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO APPOINT LAURIE L. CARSON AS THE ALTERNATE LIAISON TO ENERGY IN WHITE PINE COUNTY**

At 9:20am, Commissioner Laurie Carson explained she might be a good resource as an alternate liaison to energy in White Pine County and noted her experience with the wind farm and NV Energy. Commissioner Bybee moved to approve this item and Commissioner Bullis seconded; motion passed.

#### **DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2020-56 REQUESTING THAT THE GOVERNOR AND ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEVADA AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES ENSURE A CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE IN PERSON AT THE 2020 GENERAL ELECTION IS MAINTAINED**

Commissioner Laurie Carson was contacted by Joanie Eastley on behalf of Adam Laxalt. She was disappointed by the decision of the Governor to take away the power of the Secretary of State to make decisions regarding our elections. There is only one investigator to investigate election fraud. Chairman Howe asked Clerk Nichole Baldwin for input. Clerk Baldwin asserted that the Commission should understand that we are striving to ensure fraud does not occur with the various protections in place. Chairman Howe asked for a motion to approve and Vice Chairman Godon stated he is for this resolution, but he's not expressing concerns on a local level; more on a state level. Other Commissioners agreed. Vice Chairman Godon moved to approve, Commissioner Bullis seconded and the motion passed.

**SHANE BYBEE, COMMISSIONER**

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/RATIFICATION OF A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE NNRDA'S APPLICATION TO THE U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION FOR AN "ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT" DESIGNATION WHICH WOULD ALLOW NNRDA TO TAP ADDITIONAL EDA/DEPT. OF COMMERCE FUNDING**

Commissioner Bybee had the Chairman sign this letter last week. This designation opens up more avenues for funding and resources which will aid us in our efforts. Commissioner Carson moved to approved, Commissioner Bullis seconded; motion passed.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**MIKE WHEABLE, DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2020-57 REQUESTING THE NEVADA ATTORNEY GENERAL TO REVIEW FOR CHARGES AND POTENTIALLY PROSECUTE DA CASE 2020-258 PURSUANT TO NRS 228.130, AND TO REIMBURSE THE NEVADA AG AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,500**

DA Mike Wheable stated this happens once per year and this one is too close to his office. Commissioner Godon moved to approve and Commissioner Bybee seconded; item was approved.

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/RATIFICATION OF AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHITE PINE COUNTY AND ALMA HEALTHCARE, INC. FOR SERVICES AT A RATE OF \$500.00 PER HOUR FOR ONE HOUR PER WEEK OR TWO MONTHS, FOR A TOTAL COMPENSATION OF \$4,000.00 EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 11, 2020 FOR A TWO-MONTH PERIOD**

DA Mike Wheable explained this is for Dr. Byun to consult with Daren Kunz as the Public Health Officer. Vice Chairman Godon moved to approve and Commissioner Carson seconded; motion passed.

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/RATIFICATION OF AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHITE PINE COUNTY AND DAREN KUNZ, PHARM D FOR SERVICES AS A PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER AT A RATE OF \$5,000.00 PER MONTH DURING THE DECLARED COVID-19 PANDEMIC OR WHEN A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY IS DECLARED DUE TO COVID-19, WHICHEVER IS SHORTER, AND \$12,000 PER YEAR THEREAFTER EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 11, 2020 UNTIL APPOINTMENT IS TERMINATED OR RESIGNED**

Clerk Baldwin notified the DA that Dr. Kunz still has not signed the agreement. The DA said its fine, we can still ratify it on our end. Commissioner Godon moved to approve, Commissioner Carson seconded; motion passed.

**NICHOLE BALDWIN, COUNTY CLERK**

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO ALLOW THE CLERK TO CLOSE THE CLERK'S OFFICE AT 5PM DURING THE CLOSE OF VOTER REGISTRATION ON OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH OCTOBER 6<sup>TH</sup>, PURSUANT TO NRS 293.560(3)(a)**

Clerk Baldwin explained why this was needed. Commissioner Bullis moved to approve and Commissioner Bybee seconded; motion passed.

#### **DEPARTMENT HEADS**

##### **BRETT NORTH, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIRECTOR**

##### **DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL FOR WHITE PINE COUNTY TO CONTRACT WITH DR. DANA VITALE, M.D. TO FILL THE POSITION OF WHITE PINE COUNTY EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR AT A COST OF \$12,000.00 ANNUALLY; COST TO BE SPLIT EQUALLY WITH THE CITY OF ELY**

Director Brett North reported that Doctor Christensen is retiring soon. The City found a prospective Medical Director that will be good for the City and County EMS. We did not budget for this, but we need to obtain a Medical Director for ambulance services. Pat Stork, Ely VFD Fire Chief, explained Doc Chris has been the EMT Director since the 70's and he's done it for free. He will not renew his medical license, but if we get someone in place, sooner would be better. Dr. Vitale has expressed a desire to step in and be an active trainer in White Pine County. He will do it for \$1,000/month for both entities. Right now the City and County operate on the same protocols. It is felt this is a great deal to be pursued. Dr. Dana Vitale is present via Zoom and Chairman Howe brought him up to speed. Finance Director Frances will work with Director North to move money around to fund this. Chief Stork explained that we operate under the Medical Director's license and he signs off on the EMS care that is rendered. The City is trying to advance their medical service up to paramedic level and they depend on his license to get there. Commissioner Godon made a motion to approve not to exceed \$6,000, Commissioner Carson seconded; motion passed.

##### **LORI ROMERO, LIBRARY DIRECTOR/SR. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR**

##### **DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO ACCEPT 2020-27 LSTA INFORMATION ACCESS FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,060.00. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S SALARY AND IN-KIND SERVICES WILL BE USED FOR THE \$706.00 MATCH**

Director Lori Romero stated this was used to purchase a large screen TV to match the wireless microphones, and a sanitizer for books. Commissioner Carson noted the Commission will be moving out of the Library Conference room eventually. Commissioner Laurie Carson moved to approve and Commissioner Shane Bybee seconded; motion passed.

##### **DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO ACCEPT AGING & DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION GRANT #17-000-07-1H1-21 FOR CONGREGATE MEAL SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$23,907.00. TAX OVERRIDE FUNDS WILL BE USED FOR THE \$1,515.00 MATCH**

Director Lori Romero stated this is for the first 3 quarters starting Oct 1<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Carson moved to approve and Commissioner Bullis seconded; motion passed.

##### **DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO ACCEPT AGING & DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION GRANT #17-000-04-21-21 FOR HOMEBOUND MEAL SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$38,352.00. TAX OVERRIDE FUNDS WILL BE USED FOR THE \$1,821.00 MATCH**

Director Romero reported numbers are up and this is needed. Vice Chairman Godon moved to approve, Commissioner Carson seconded; motion passed.

Chairman Howe called a break at 9:56am. The meeting reconvened at 10:04am

**DESIREE BARNSON, SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR**

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO PUT ELY BUS DISPATCH AT THE EOC INSTEAD OF THE ROAD SHOP BECAUSE OF NO HEAT OR COOLING**

At 9:30am, Chairman Howe noted Fire Chief Brett north has no problem with this. As long as everyone is good with it, Vice Chairman Godon moved to approve and Commissioner Carson seconded. The motion passed.

**ELIZABETH FRANCES, FINANCE DIRECTOR**

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO AMEND BUDGET FOR CARES ACT FUNDS AS PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BASED ON CHANGING NEEDS**

At 10:22am, Finance Director Elizabeth Frances noted additional requests have been received. Additional assistance opened on 9/8/20. She is asking for help in getting this promoted. She did a press release with the Ely Times. She explained this is grant money and not a loan to be repaid. The Senior Center requested for additional monies for added and unexpected improvements. The Fire District requested money for a hands free compression for CPR; 4 units cost over \$59,000. McGill Town Council asked for COVID 19 supplies that Elizabeth can satisfy. Additional sick leave required pursuant to federal law was approved at over \$24,000. Another request for heart monitors for over \$408,000 for the Fire District for volunteers was added. We can save money under the Public Health Officer in the range of \$24,000. The portable JAVS equipment grant was not funded and she's working to find another grant to pay for that. Her question is, do we want to keep the budget in small business expenditures because she does not see a huge demand for this. Commissioner Bullis suggested getting the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism and Recreation people involved to spread the word. Vice Chairman Godon mentioned some people have had issues with the application process and asked if she'd look into it. Commissioner Bybee would be more than happy to go door to door and visit with business owners and Chairman Howe would help as well. Commissioner Laurie Carson suggested that Mayor Robertson promote this on the radio as a joint offering. The grant closes Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Bybee wanted to leave the full funding in place until the deadline is reached. Director Frances felt that the most important need came from the Senior Center and she can adjust allocations to cover that. Does the Commission want to provide more money for COVID 19 reasons? Or wait to see what happens with the small business program? Commissioner Godon moved to reallocate \$1,390 for the Senior Center and then amended his motion to take the balance of COVID 19 leave costs to apply toward overtime expenses. Chairman Howe and Commissioner Bybee will visit businesses starting today. Commissioner Carson seconded the amended motion. George Chachas was allowed to state that money should be allocated to the Senior Center for ADA access. Motion passed.

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/DIRECTION ON GOLF COURSE BUDGET DUE TO LARGE CHANGES IN COSTS FOR WATERING FROM WHAT WAS REPRESENTED TO THE COUNTY LAST FALL**



Finance Director Elizabeth Frances met with the City regarding the changes in billing for water which resulted in a HUGE difference. It was relayed that changes would be around \$2,000, but when bills started rolling in showed over a \$7,000 difference for water in a one month period. The City meter is located on City property. She's asking for direction on how to handle this. The City previously retorted that they had problems with meters in a statement that they were misread and they agreed water utilization was less than what was reported. Commissioner Ian Bullis noted that reclaimed water could be used to help save resources and reduce costs. This occurs in other areas with limited impacts. DA Wheable noted that was talked about previously. There is no trust with the City of Ely at this time and partnering with them on a project like this will be frustrating. Chairman Howe stated this is "flat out BS! There is no way on God's green earth that the golf course can operate with water bills like that." Ruth/McGill Water and Sewer were billed over \$6,000 for water recently! The City is out of line and have been acting in desperation to balance their shortfalls. This was a slap in the face as the County provides a lot of services. This request cannot be sustained. The golf course is already on a shoe string budget and this water is shared with the City. He's had it; "it time to become one government!" he exclaimed. Commissioner Shane Bybee was on the City Council when the agreement for the well was executed. The City does not pay for that well. DA Wheable wants to see the agreement for the golf course itself as that might contain answers. He's concerned about why they are concerned about water usage. This may need reagendaed. Finance Director Frances noted a financial problem in the revenue find for the golf course. Commissioner Godon thinks we should pay the deal previously worked out with Public Works Director Calderwood and Finance Director Elizabeth Frances. The DA mentioned the risk is the water gets shut off. The golf course does not make the County money and he asked what the City contributes to it. He'd like to know what can be done to keep it open if it is agreed that it is a needed amenity. Chairman Howe wants the City to come to us. He agreed we pay what we agreed to pay. Commissioner Bybee will get with the Golf Advisory Board to set up a schedule and visit with the City. We supply a lot of services that are non-profitable and this is a gouge since they incur no extra costs being hooked up to this well; the mine pays for the pump.

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO ALLOW THE SHERIFF TO PROCEED WITH VEHICLE PURCHASES PRIOR TO 1/1/2021 DUE TO CONDITION AND FAILURE OF SOME OF THE OLDER VEHICLES**

Sheriff Scott Henriod stepped up and gave an update on his vehicles. He reported on mechanical failures that would be more expensive to fix than to replace so he is asking for approval. Commissioner Bullis moved to approve and Vice Chairman Godon seconded; motion passed.

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/RATIFICATION OF GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY ELIZABETH FRANCES/TABATHA HAMILTON TO THE SOUTHERN NEVADA PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT ACT (SNPLMA) ROUND 18 FOR THE NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY PHASE 3 PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,018,655 - THE REQUIRED COUNTY MATCH AMOUNT IS \$-0-**

Chairman Howe opened up this item and the next 2 SNPLMA grant items together. Commissioner Bullis moved to ratify all 3 and Vice Chairman Godon seconded; all 3 items were approved.

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/RATIFICATION OF GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY ELIZABETH FRANCES/TABATHA HAMILTON TO THE SOUTHERN NEVADA PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT ACT (SNPLMA) ROUND 18 FOR THE FAIRGROUNDS UPGRADES PHASE 3 PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,020,075. THE REQUIRED COUNTY MATCH AMOUNT IS \$-0-**

See item above.

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/RATIFICATION OF GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY ELIZABETH FRANCES/TABATHA HAMILTON TO THE SOUTHERN NEVADA PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT ACT (SNPLMA) ROUND 18 FOR THE HERITAGE PARK PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$24,385,623. THE REQUIRED COUNTY MATCH AMOUNT IS \$-0-**

See first item above.

**CONSENT AGENDA: DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/RATIFICATION OF CORRESPONDENCE SENT ON BEHALF OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY COMMISSION; APPROVAL OF PAYROLL FOR COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS; APPROVAL OF HR TRANSMITTAL FOR PAYROLL CHANGES; APPROVAL OF BUDGET TRANSFERS WITHIN/BETWEEN FUNCTIONS/PROGRAMS WITHIN A FUND THAT DO NOT INCREASE THE TOTAL APPROPRIATION OF THE FUND**

Commissioner Bybee moved to approve and Commissioner Carson seconded; motion passed.

#### **UNTIMED ITEMS**

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF A PROCLAMATION FOR RED RIBBON WEEK FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2020**

Chairman Howe noted this is done annually. Commissioner Bybee moved to approve and Commissioner Carson seconded; motion passed.

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSION MEETINGS HELD ON:**

- **August 26, 2020**
- **Special September 2, 2020**

Commissioner Carson moved to approve and Commissioner Bullis seconded. Motion passed.

**DISCUSSION/UPDATE FROM NEVADA RURAL HOUSING AUTHORITY (NRHA) ON THE WORK COMPLETED AT THE BRISTLECONE APARTMENTS**

Stacey Sept from Nevada Rural Housing Authority has a presentation that IT assisted with. Chairman Howe noted the invite to tour the apartments at 1pm today. He intended to go and other Commissioners are welcome to attend. They are to meet at the manager's office at

1pm. Stacey talked about the history of the NRHA and the Bristlecone Apartments. She introduced a few individuals that accompanied her today. Their organization was founded in 1973 and in 1995 they became their own quasi-governmental entity. They strive to fill their mission to promote, provide, and finance affordable housing for Nevada's families. They offer programs for buyers, winterization, and aim to serve rural communities. They cover 110,000 square miles or 1.5 million Nevadans. They have earned awards for being high performers in their field. However, their true reward is seeing members of the community being happy in their safe homes. Beth took over and explained the construction aspect of NRHA. They serve 88% of resident households who pay no more than 30% of their income for housing. She listed the various location they have properties and studies they have going that will help them determine housing needs. Bristlecone Apartments is a 68 unit complex built in the 1980's. Of those, 3 units are not income restricted. The scope of work done there included replacement of windows and doors, heating and cooling systems, new appliances, new and more efficient lighting, flooring was replaced, and wood paneling was replaced with drywall. Site improvements include the building of a new office with a community space, a new laundry and fitness complex scheduled to be done by the end of October, a new playground, 2 dog parks and some community gardens for residents. The cost for all this was \$10,723,854 that includes a USDA loan transfer. She noted where the monies came from and added that asbestos had to be abated and removed during this project. Brownsfield helped them accomplish that. \$82,476 per unit in rehab has been done through this project. She went over some before and after photos and mentioned new ADA units have been added. The Commissioners complimented the improvements and thanked the team from NRHA.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Howe recommended the Board attend the 1pm tour. Commissioner Bybee moved to adjourn and Commissioner Bullis seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:08 pm.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHITE PINE COUNTY  
STATE OF NEVADA

BY: Richard Howe  
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

Waldemar  
WPC CLERK OF THE BOARD