

IN A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY COMMISSION HELD ON OCTOBER 21, 2020 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

County Officials

Mike Johnson, IT Specialist
Elizabeth Frances, Finance Director
Mike Wheable, District Attorney
Bill Calderwood, Public Works Director
Martin Troutt, Lead Supervisor
Scott Henriod, WPC Sheriff
Catherine Bakaric, Treasurer

Also Present

George Chachas, George Town Media
Jared Bybee, BLM (Zoom)
Isaac Bullis
Jesse Meyer, Hinton Burdick
Robert Inhead (Zoom)
Geri Wopschall (Zoom)
David (Zoom)
Lantz (Zoom)

Chairman Richard Howe called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Commissioner Ian Bullis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE/SILENT INVOCATION

This was duly observed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. George Chachas noted item 1B and advised the Board that this road agreement has drug on for months and should've been terminated months ago. The contractor there failed to maintain minimum standards and we should consider to go after their license. The County is wasting time and needs to set an example or more problems will come down the road. George recalled that he still has not received compensation for damages done to his property. He asked if the Justice Center building is for everyone and as a taxpayer, he expects fair protection. The parking lot at the Convention Center does not meet ADA requirements and he felt the Tourism Board is not thinking of the tourists. George's business is being effected by lights being out and improper drainage on street gutters. He reminds the Board that the single biggest detriment to the County is the building inspector. Time was called.

1. NOTICE OF UNTIMED ITEMS

***a) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval to contract with Hinton Burdick for an account specialist to assist and support in the reconciliation of an account from ADS into Tyler software, within the Treasurer's Office, in an amount not to exceed**

\$15,000, with funds from contingency. To begin work as soon as possible. Based upon the findings and recommendations of the White Pine County Audit Committee

Finance Director Elizabeth Frances explained that there was a glitch in this year's audit and she cannot issue financial statements until accounts have been properly reconciled. This occurred last August 2019 during the conversion to Tyler and then a few months later, on the tax bill side with DevNet. This is a request to bring in assistance to reconcile and get things caught up. She further added that she will develop a policy to ensure this does not happen again. This will have impact in the long term as we move from low risk in the audit scale; this is a material weakness. The Treasurer's Office needs help to rectify this.

Treasurer Catherine Bakaric advised that she is still attempting to reconcile August 2019 for the County's checking account due to many factors. She explained the conversion timeline and how that overloaded her office. She explained the many factors involved and why the situation is extremely complicated. She is happy to explain more in person and is asking for help catching this up. She can do it herself, but not in a timely manner. Many things are being held up until this can be done so this is an urgent request. Director Frances reiterated the need for this assistance and DA Wheable further confirmed that this needs to be handled as soon as possible. Commissioner Bybee thought this was pretty minor considering what it could've been and he felt we need to approve this. Treasurer Bakaric introduced Jesse Meyer from Hinton Burdick. The Treasurer feels more confident with this help moving forward.

Commissioner Carson moved to approve and Commissioner Bullis seconded; the motion passed.

***b) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval to terminate the road agreement with Western Oil for their failure to provide the balance of the bond within the agreed terms and/or to discuss an extension of the terms with modified conditions upon additional proof of good faith**

Chairman Howe called this item up first and asked Commission Vice Chairman Godon for an update. Via Zoom, Commissioner Godon updated the Board that Western Oil/Western Gold did pay the \$100,000 after the deadline, but it did make it. Another investor called and indicated he could wire the remaining \$300,000 this month. Public Works Director Bill Calderwood had advised Commissioner Godon that the County will have a permitted gravel pit by the end of this week. DA Mike Wheable advised that proof of good faith was shown and it appears that Western Oil/Western Gold is still doing what they can to move things forward.

Director Calderwood received an email from the BLM and this Friday he needs to sign papers to give him access to a gravel pit north of the highway. This is a huge step forward to fixing those roads. If good faith is continued to be shown, he is happy and willing to continue to work with Western Oil/Western Gold. Director Calderwood explained that the County was able to obtain the gravel at a reduced rate as compared to a private business and the needed road work can be done cheaper.

Commissioner Godon updated that temporary water construction permits can be obtained to allow them to drill a hole in the area they are in; this will be easier to obtain since the gravel permit will be approved. Director Calderwood added that they have 2 new

wells in Long Valley and they are willing to work with Western Oil/Gold to drop a pump for water for these roads. Supervisor Lead Martin Troutt explained that obtaining the permit process for the gravel pit north of Highway 50 was easier due to it being out of sage grouse habitat, while all around WP 1177 is protected. Permitting is still being worked on for test trenches south of the highway, but he is not confident good gravel can be found there. The temporary construction permit for usage of water can go quick, but once finished, it can be pursued as a permanent permit. Per Director Calderwood, James Franklin promised to apply for those in the County's name and pay the fees. Jared Bybee from the BLM via Zoom confirmed the report on the gravel pit by Friday and the test pits south of the highway; we are all on the same page. DA Wheable proposed that we forget about this agenda item for now pending an update in a couple of weeks. Commissioner Godon agreed it should be extended to November 16th. Chairman Howe stated that December is probably a better time for a status.

Commissioner Bybee moved to extend the road agreement until November 16th, Commissioner Godon seconded. Motion passed.

***c) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval Of Resolution 2020-48, A Resolution Of The White Pine County Board Of County Commissioners Declaring Its Intent Pursuant To NRS 405.010, To Immediately Order The Closure Of County Road 1177, From Its Inception At Highway 50, Continuing South Until Its Intersection With County Road 1204, And To Order The Immediate Closure Of The Entirety Of County Road 1204, To Prevent Further Catastrophic Environmental And Infrastructure Damage To Those County Roads Due To The Dry Conditions And Heavy Machinery Traffic; As Well As Provide Notice To The Public Of The Closure, Penalties, Fines, And The Potential Liability For Defiance Of This Order And; To Direct The County Road Department To Place Barriers, Signage, And Copies Of This Order And Resolution At Access Point To This Section Of County Road**

Commissioner Carson moved to table this item and Commissioner Bullis seconded. Item was tabled.

PUBLIC COMMENT

George Chachas expressed his disappointment in the decision on item b. He repeatedly expressed his concern that the building inspector is selectively enforcing the law. He is unable to rent his properties as others do and he received 2 citations and lost his renters. Within a short distance of his property, people are moving into similar circumstances, yet he is still being cited. This needs to stop! He felt the County is helping "out of towners" to destroy public roads, but he being a resident gets no help. He wants equal protection under the law. The State health mandates require mask wearing and Commissioner Bullis has not worn a mask for at least 14-15 meetings. The rest of the Commission has the same obligation and you should do your jobs or resign. He reminded us we lost a public official recently to COVID-19. He heard Mr. Bullis went into a local business and was refused business due to his refusal to wear a mask. Chairman Howe stopped the heresy and warned Mr. Chachas of his behavior.

Chairman Howe thanked Commission Vice Chairman Travis Godon for his time and effort with the road situation and he feels we made the right decision.

Commissioner Carson announced that as the alternate to the Water Advisory Board, at last night's meeting they received an email from Jeff Fontaine from CNRWA and the request from WPC to extend the comment period on water hearing held here and on Oct. 26th in Railroad Valley was accepted; comments are now being accepted until December 1st instead of November 2nd and she was happy for that.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:40 a.m., Commissioner Bullis made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Shane Bybee seconded. Motion carried.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**WHITE PINE COUNTY
STATE OF NEVADA**

BY: 
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:


WPC CLERK OF THE BOARD