

IN A REGULAR MEETING OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY COMMISSION HELD ON JANUARY 27, 2016 AT THE WHITE PINE COUNTY AQUATICS CENTER, 1111 VETERANS BLVD., ELY, NEVADA

The Following Were Present:

County Commission

Gary Perea, Chairman  
Carol McKenzie, Vice-Chairman  
Laurie Carson, Commissioner  
Mike Coster, Commissioner  
Richard Howe, Commissioner  
Nichole Baldwin, Clerk of the Board  
Susan Lujan, Deputy Clerk

County Officials

Mike Wheable, District Attorney  
Bunny Hill, Social Services Director  
Elizabeth Frances, Finance Director  
Dan Watts, WPC Sheriff  
Lori Romero, Library/Sr. Center Director  
Chris Ricci, Sr. Center Program Supervisor  
Kathy Ricci, Human Resources Director  
Elaine Blackham, Sr. Management Assist't.  
Bill Miller, Road Maint. Superintendent  
Bill Calderwood, Facility Maint. Superintd't.  
Steve Stork, Airport Manager  
Megan Brown, WPC Aquatic Center Dir.  
Jennifer Rivera, Public Health

Also Present

Geri Wopschall  
Ann Carson  
Nancy Herms, Ely Outdoor Enthusiasts  
George Chachas  
Maxine Lantz, Victim & Witness Services  
Brandon Lewis, Wells Fargo Insurance  
Ross Johnson, Ely Times  
Tina Perchetti, LP Insurance  
Alan Reed, Warren Reed Insurance  
Donna Bath, Senator Dean Heller  
Ron Miller  
Johnathan Dishong, Simplistic Solutions  
Adam Christensen, Dixie Leavitt Insurance Agency  
Julie Logue, Dixie Leavitt Insurance Agency  
Janael Gamberg, Dixie Leavitt Insurance Agency

---

Chairman Gary Perea called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Carol McKenzie led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Maxine Lantz, speaking as a Ruth citizen, wished to commend the Road Department for keeping the snow under control for the Ruth residents. She praised them for doing an excellent job.

Mr. George Chachas first reviewed some ongoing concerns: The Tourism & Recreation Board needs to appoint new members, as he feels the present board has issues complying with the Open Meeting Law. He has not received information requested from them to date. He wants the Commission to put people on that board who understand business, and he stated "we aren't getting any." He also cited the lack of snow removal in their parking lot and the sidewalks; he feels they can afford to hire a local contractor to remove the snow, there's no excuse for not doing it. Next, he isn't getting information he's asked for from the EDC, namely an upgraded list of home occupation/special permits. The last list he received was from 2011, from Mr. Chris Flannery. He added that information had been requested from the Planning Commission, the RPC, as well and has not received it. Next, he has yet to receive information from the RTC; he wants to know why the Orson Street project hasn't been finished, it's been over a year and it isn't completed yet. He cited the agenda item pertaining to an increase in vehicle fuel tax; he felt there

shouldn't been any tax increases, when the County isn't doing their share to cut back. He also cited the EDC, and stated the money should be put where we need it, we aren't doing anything with the EDC, we are in a financial crisis and no more taxes need to be put on the taxpayer. He cited the D.A.'s office, which needs additional help; the EDC office should be put down. Over by the Annex, he continued, there is a safety hazard, because there are no barricades or fences there. Kids are snowmobiling there and sledding down without having warning signs or protection there, it's not properly fenced.

Commissioner Mike Coster wished to comment that we are starting a New Year, with new beginnings, and there are a couple of things he wished to note since we will be in our budget season soon. In December this Board voted to transfer the EDC Commission duties to the Clerk's office and he sees only a fraction of that has been done. He added there was also to be a status report, by the first or second Commission meeting in February, and he is hoping things will move along. Another matter was a committee that was to be selected to meet with the City on the Fire issue, and as that has been postponed he feels there was an opportunity that was lost there. In November, also, he had requested specific station-by-station information on the Fire District with respect to budgeting for trucks, radios, pagers, etc. and he isn't aware of any progress being done with that.

At this point, WPC Clerk Nichole Baldwin arrived at the meeting after having to deal with the vault in her office, which wouldn't open. Maintenance came in to replace the batteries and it's working again, she reported. A notation of when batteries are replaced will be made, and this should be avoided in the future.

#### TIMED AGENDA ITEMS

At 9:10 a.m., Chairman Gary Perea recessed the regular Commission meeting and opened the Road Commission meeting. At 9:30 a.m., Road Commission Chairman Gary Perea adjourned the Road Commission meeting and reconvened the regular Commission meeting.

#### 9:30 A.M. – PUBLIC HEARING

#### WHITE PINE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT RE: BILL 01-28-2015 (ORDINANCE #459) – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP A 5-YEAR MASTER PLAN TO ENHANCE OR IMPROVE THE TELEPHONE SYSTEM FOR REPORTING AN EMERGENCY AND TO OVERSEE ANY MONEY ALLOCATED FOR THAT PURPOSE, AND AUTHORIZING A TELEPHONE SURCHARGE TO BE IMPOSED FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OR IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING TELEPHONE SYSTEMS USED FOR REPORTING EMERGENCIES PURSUANT TO NRS 244A.7641 THROUGH NRS 244A.7647 INCLUSIVE, AND OTHER PROPERLY RELATED MATTERS

Chairman Gary Perea read the text title into the record and asked for public comment; there was none. Commissioner Mike Coster asked if this could be assigned to LEPC, or if a new committee would be necessary. District Attorney Mike Wheable advised that the NRS specifies who should sit on such a committee, and one of the criteria is that no elected official could be a member. It was noted that Commissioner Carol McKenzie sits on LEPC; a brief discussion ensued regarding the composition of the committee. D.A. Wheable clarified this is just to establish the committee, not to approve the surcharge. The Public Hearing was closed.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL OF BILL 01-28-2015 (ORDINANCE #459) – AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP A 5-YEAR MASTER PLAN TO ENHANCE OR IMPROVE THE TELEPHONE SYSTEM FOR REPORTING AN EMERGENCY AND TO OVERSEE ANY MONEY ALLOCATED FOR THAT PURPOSE, AND AUTHORIZING A TELEPHONE SURCHARGE TO BE IMPOSED FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OR IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING TELEPHONE SYSTEMS USED FOR REPORTING EMERGENCIES PURSUANT TO NRS 244A.7641 THROUGH NRS 244A.7647 INCLUSIVE, AND OTHER PROPERLY RELATED MATTERS**

Chairman Gary Perea commented that while this is an additional tax, it is well worth it, especially in the rural areas where this technology is lacking. During the discussion, it was clarified that the fee amounted to 25 cents per month for each line, whether cell or landline. Trunk lines, which handle 10 or so different numbers, would only be charged \$2.50 per month for the service. Chairman Gary Perea entertained a motion to approve this as requested. Commissioner Richard Howe made a motion to approve Bill 01-28-2015, Ordinance #459, an ordinance establishing an advisory committee to develop a 5-year master plan to enhance or improve the telephone system for reporting an emergency and to oversee any money allocated for that purpose, and authorizing a telephone surcharge to be imposed for the enhancement or improvement of existing telephone systems used for reporting emergencies pursuant to NRS 244A.7641 through NRS 244A.7647 inclusive, and other properly related matters. Commissioner Mike Coster seconded. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL OF ELY OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS' 2016 EVENTS: (1) BRISTLECONE BIRKEBEINER; (2) TURKEY VULTURE STRETCH 5K; (3) GLOW RUN; (4) TAKE IT TO THE LAKE HALF-MARATHON, 10K AND KIDS RUN**

Ms. Nancy Herms addressed the Board, thanking them for taking her early on the agenda. She briefly reviewed each of the events planned for 2016. The Bristlecone Birkebeiner is a cross-country ski event to be held at the Ward Mountain Recreation Area on February 20. The Turkey Vulture Stretch will begin at County Park on March 19<sup>th</sup>; Ms. Herms assured the Board that the run won't be going through the Ely Cemetery. She reported a new event will be held, a "Glow Run," to be held at night. They are looking to such items as glowsticks and necklaces, glow-in-the-dark body paint, black light activated powder, etc. There was some detailed discussion of the route and safety precautions that will be taken for that event. WPC Sheriff Dan Watts requested information on this, as this is the first he's heard of it; she did note that the Nevada Highway Patrol has been notified, and she offered Sheriff Watts her information packet that she brought to today's meeting. She will also be working with the National Speleological Society, who will be here during the timeframe of the Glow Run. The Take-It-To-The-Lake Half-Marathon, 10K and Kids Run have been well received and their popularity is growing, she reported. Road Maintenance Superintendent Bill Miller has been very helpful, providing the event with signage, radios, directing traffic, etc. Ms. Herms added that they always have at least 1 EMT and an ambulance on site for all their events. There was brief discussion of road closures; Chairman Perea advised we could approve this today and leave it up to Sheriff Watts and Superintendent Miller to ascertain if there are any problems that may need to be addressed. Superintendent Miller will, with the Boards approval, be given the authority to work on these events with the Ely Outdoor Enthusiasts. Chairman Perea entertained a motion to approve these as requested. Commissioner Mike Coster made a motion to approve the Ely Outdoor Enthusiasts' 2016 events, namely the Bristlecone Birkebeiner, the Turkey Vulture Stretch 5K, the Glow Run, and the Take-It-To-The-Lake Half-Marathon, 10K and Kid's Run. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried.

**ITEMS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS**

**COUNTY COMMISSION:** None.

## ELECTED OFFICIALS

### DISTRICT ATTORNEY:

#### DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE THE CREATION OF THE POSITION OF DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY I-CIVIL

Finance Director Elizabeth Frances provided a handout to the Board, a memo which explains what the current status is in the District Attorney's office. District Attorney Mike Wheable noted each one of these items is pending; he added that he's already had 35 criminal cases come in, and yesterday was only the 26<sup>th</sup> day of the year. While he's excited rather than intimidated regarding the growing criminal calendar, the concern regarding presentation of cases and pre-trial research was increasing prior to the temporary departure of his office help. He is requesting a criminal deputy attorney due to the criminal cases taking up so much time to prepare properly. D.A. Wheable added that civil cases are also rolling in on a regular basis, and he may not be able to do the groundwork/research to cover those adequately. He assured the Board that he would continue attending the Commission meetings, rather than sending in the new Deputy. Commissioner Richard Howe felt that a Civil Attorney would be a great help in that office. Regarding the cost, he cited the Board's approval recently to keep an office that in his opinion didn't feel was necessary, and now for this mandated office we are having a problem. He felt the D.A.'s request should be at the top of the list, along with the fire and police protection. He added this civil attorney should be a position that is kept in the County, and funded in perpetuity. He concluded by stating that this Board might have to change its mind, from what they've agreed to fund before. WPC Sheriff Dan Watts noted that the D.A. is putting in many hours, but through no fault of his the statute of limitations for arrests, investigations, etc. are coming up and cases are being dismissed for that reason now. He emphasized that we need to move forward and get the right things done. D.A. Wheable emphasized that this is not a move to bump out another Department, and furthermore he is very uncomfortable having to request this. Chairman Perea agreed that in order to get things done in the County we have to have this position. Commissioner Mike Coster hoped that that position descriptions for future office operations would allow for some cross assignments, such as taking care of the early-stage research, etc. D.A. Wheable agreed with this. There was some further discussion, during with D.A. Wheable noted that we will start at the bare-bones salary level and try to recruit from there, but that it will be difficult. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to authorize the creation of the position of Deputy District Attorney I-Civil, as requested. Commissioner Mike Coster seconded. Motion carried.

#### DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL FOR RECRUITMENT OF THE POSITION OF DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY I-CIVIL

District Attorney Mike Wheable explained this agenda item will authorize Human Resources Director Kathy Ricci to get this position going. Commissioner Mike Coster made a motion to approve recruitment of the position of Deputy District Attorney I-Civil, as presented. Commissioner Carol McKenzie seconded. Motion carried.

## DEPARTMENT HEADS

### MAINTENANCE:

#### DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL OF EXTENSION FOR COUNTRY CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR ANNEX DEMO COMPLETION DATE DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS

Facility Maintenance Superintendent Bill Calderwood advised that he agrees with Mr. George Chachas regarding putting some safety buffers around this area. While the contractor is willing to complete the project, he continued, there are some driveway issues with transport of the heavy asphalt. Superintendent Calderwood assured the Board the safety issues will be addressed. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to approve the extension of the Country Construction contract for Annex demo completion date due to weather conditions, as requested. Commissioner Carol McKenzie seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Richard Howe left the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and returned at 10:04 a.m.

**10:00 A.M. – GRANT MANAGERS**

**DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL OF UPDATES ON QUARTERLY GRANT REPORTS BY DEPARTMENT HEADS AND/OR GRANT MANAGERS ON THE FOLLOWING:**

**Social Services – Bunny Hill**

- o CSBG – This grant won't roll over.
- o WSAP – This grant does roll over, and provides a modest cushion.
- o Aging & Disability Services – There are many clients due to the high cost of power bills, oil and propane during the winter. Our grant tends to be spent more for our seniors' heating issues, while in Eureka they do receive lots of food for their seniors, she noted.
- o NDOT Grants (Ely Bus) – a bus had to have an engine replaced; we only had to pay 20% of the cost, while the balance was paid for by NDOT.

**EDC – Elaine Blackham**

Sr. Management Assistant Elaine Blackham cited the written report in the Commission packet, but also provided the following information:

- o CDBG – This was awarded July 1, 2014 for \$257,310.52. However, after all the requirements had been met for this, the project was delayed for a year. A contract to drill the Ruth Test Well was put out in December 2015, the McGill-Ruth Sewer/Water G.I.D. accepted the contractor and the Commission also approved it. However, the amount of the grant wasn't enough to cover all the costs. Robinson Nevada Mine stepped up to cover the difference, \$81,369.48, so the test well could be drilled.

Facility Maintenance Superintendent Bill Calderwood provided updates on the SNPLMA projects:

- o WP-02, WPC Parks Renovation – Preston and Steptoe park projects were discussed briefly. It is expected construction will be completed shortly.
- o WP-07, Camp Success Phase I; and
- o WP-08, Camp Success Phase II – There was a difference between the award and contract amount of \$470,000 due to Camp Success being so well-funded for the various projects. The fund is now down to \$314,000, and they are looking to bring gravel into the driveways, etc. and similar projects in the area. The JCR Development contract is 95% completed; there is 5% remaining since they don't want construction going over the top of the existing concrete, it was explained.
- o WP-09, Fairgrounds Renovation – Currently working on estimating the engineering costs; the bid should be very close to the actual award.

Commissioner Laurie Carson added that information was put out from the BLM to move projects proposed for the next SNPLMA Round, to have it done by the end of March; they are requesting our opinion. So far, she noted, no one likes it, since that is around budget time for most counties. As we would want to have time to put together good project proposals, we would want to keep it in September for when the next Round would be due; this would be specific to parks trails and natural areas.

**Maintenance – Bill Calderwood**

- o Pennington Foundation Grant – This is nearly completed. \$21,000 was awarded specifically to take care of the infields, and so far \$6,000+ has been spent. Some materials are beginning to arrive at Marich Field, it was noted.

Senior Center – Chris Ricci

- o Aging & Disability Services Division (ADSD) Grant (x2) – This is ongoing.
- o EJC Foundation Grant (Senior Medical Travel) – The contract was reviewed by the D.A., it went to the vendor to sign, and once the contract is in place the new dishwasher will be installed at a cost of \$88/month for 2 years. She noted there is still some money left for the senior medical trips.
- o William N. Pennington Foundation – This has been expended; the new hot water heater and water dispenser have been installed and are working well.

Library – Lori Romero

Library/Sr. Center Director Lori Romero cited her written report in the Commission packet.

- o EL Cord, Library Expansion; and
- o Robert Hawkins Foundation – The Library Expansion is now in progress! She explained how the project is going forward. It is projected that the foyer and bathrooms will be completed mid-March.
- o E.L. Cord Foundation – This grant will be used for microfische.

Sheriff's Dept. – Dan Watts

- o Eastern Nv. Narcotics Enforcement Task Force Grant – There are some unexpended funds here.
- o Highway Safety Grant – There is a reimbursement of \$2,000 from this grant.
- o POOL/PACT Bulletproof Vest Grant – This was closed out last month.

District Attorney – Mike Wheable

- o Victim & Witness Services – Congress has put most of this grant into the VOCA grant (Victims of Crime Act). This grant must be done through the County itself, not the D.A.'s office, and the County will be approached regarding funding for this grant, which is a 3-year grant. Also there is a 25% match required. Program Director Maxine Lantz continued that the VOCA grant would be well worth applying for, as she explained; however, the grants are all due March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Chairman Gary Perea noted a special meeting could be held if necessary to accommodate those grant applications.
- o GTEAP Grant – This grant has been changed to a GAN grant, which is a non-matching grant; we are being advised to seek other grants to replace it. We won't be able to afford the part-time advocate; there is a possibility we could also lose the special prosecutor program. This would mean we could retain Deputy Attorney General Melissa Brown in her current capacity, but the County would have to pay the State for her services, it was explained.

Airport – Steve Stork

Airport Manager Steve Stork provided the Board with a spreadsheet showing runway costs.

- o Airport Wildlife Assessment – Closed out.
- o Airport Layout Plan -
- o Runway 18/36 Design – No activity during the last quarter; will be closed out shortly.
- o Runway 18/36 Construction – There is a balance of \$2,104,847.50 for the runway rehab grant.

Finance – Elizabeth Frances

- o D.O.E. Renewable Energy Grant - Director Frances apologized that the information didn't make it to the Commission packets in time. She explained that this grant, related to the education component, is now completed; the School District will be sending their final reports. Task 5 is still open, it was noted, but the grant will be closed without any further work on that during this quarter. Director Frances added that there is currently a solar energy contract in the District Attorney's Office for review.

District Court #1 – Lynette Gust

- o CCPGB Grant
- o JABG Grant

Chairman Gary Perea noted that Juvenile Probation Officer Lynette Gust was unable to attend today, but her grants are all zeroed out, as seen by her written reports submitted.

Chairman Gary Perea entertained a motion to approve the grant reports. Commissioner Mike Coster made a motion to adopt all of the grant reports as presented except for the Fire District, WPC Fire District Chief Brett Waters, including the written materials as presented and one document forthcoming from the Finance Office. Commissioner Carol McKenzie seconded. Motion carried.

At 10:38 a.m., Chairman Gary Perea recessed the Commission meeting for a break. The meeting was reconvened at 10:52 a.m.

**AQUATIC FACILITIES:**

**DISCUSSION/UPDATE – AQUATICS CENTER UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2015-DECEMBER 2015**

WPC Aquatics Facility Director provided a handout, which she briefly summarized for the Board. She noted Aquacize classes have 8 participants currently, but it's growing, as is the Swim Team. They attended a swim meet in St. George, Utah last November and also a swim meet in Reno this past weekend; she noted we are receiving opportunities to compete in other areas. The Robinson Nevada Mine also donated an additional \$2,000 to help fund the Swim Team, she reported. The Health Challenge is a new event, whereby participants swim 96 miles—the distance across White Pine County. Donations have been received as well, such as water bottles, and even a bowflex machine. Pool usage by our local schools—high school, middle school, and charter school—continues Monday through Friday as she outlined for the Board. It was noted that the Learning Bridge Charter School pays for their participation and during Open Swim times. During her report she advised revenues of \$43,102.55 were received as of 12/31/15, which was over the initial projected amount of \$34,000 for that timeframe. There was a concern about the bowflex machine and its usage possibly being in competition with a business; Director Brown noted it's used mainly by the Lifeguards. It was noted as a concern with respect to liability, and Director Brown advised it could be removed if the Board so wished.

**HUMAN RESOURCES:**

**DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL TO APPOINT HUMAN RESOURCES TO FORM A COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE REQUIREMENTS OF ALL RFPs FOR WPC EMPLOYEE BENEFITS INSURANCE BROKER SUBMITTED BY JANUARY 26, 2016 AND RETURN TO THE BOARD THOSE FIRMS WHO HAVE MET THE REQUIREMENTS DURING THE FIRST MEETING IN FEBRUARY FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL**

Human Resources Director Kathy Ricci advised that there had been an Insurance Committee in the past, and wished if the Board wanted to have them again or find another group to do the review. She noted the former committee was comprised of the Union Steward, the Sheriff's Dept. Union, the Finance Director, an elected official, and the Public Works Director. There followed some discussion of this, from Commissioner Richard Howe feeling we don't need another committee since the Commission makes the final decisions, to Chairman Gary Perea's feeling that we should utilize a committee to ascertain if the insurance brokerage firms meet the minimum requirements of the RFP. Director Ricci pointed out that the timeframe for open enrollment will commence shortly, and solicitations will need to be done. Commissioner Mike Coster made a motion to form a committee consistent with our prior practice to review the RFPs for WPC employee benefits insurance broker submitted by January 26, 2016 and return to the Board those firms who have met the requirements during the first meeting in February.

Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried 4:1, with Commissioner Richard Howe voting in opposition.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL TO ACKNOWLEDGE REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS FOR WHITE PINE COUNTY EMPLOYEE BENEFITS INSURANCE BROKER SUBMITTED BY 5:00 PM ON JANUARY 26, 2016**

WPC Clerk Nichole Baldwin advised there were 4 proposals that were received; District Attorney Mike Wheable noted each proposal may be acknowledged by name, or the proposals could be handed out to the Board. The proposals were listed for the record: Leavitt Group; Branch Benefit Consultants; ISU McMullen Insurance; and Wells Fargo Insurance Services. D.A. Wheable pointed out that under the Finance Director's first agenda item, the brokers may address the Commissioners today. Chairman Gary Perea disclosed that his business utilizes the Leavitt Group; however, it was noted that since he won't receive any benefit or preferential treatment, he can participate. Commissioner Richard Howe disclosed that he banks at Wells Fargo; also, Commissioner Laurie Carson disclosed that she knows the Sr. Administrator of the Leavitt Group. Per advice of D.A. Wheable, the record will show there are no conflicts from these associations. The meeting proceeded forward.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT FOR WHITE PINE COUNTY'S POLICY/-PROCEDURE ON BUDGET MANAGEMENT THROUGH HIRING DELAYS AND ATTRITION**

Human Resources Director Kathy Ricci noted a request had been put in to exempt the Fire District, the Sheriff's Dept. and the District Attorney's Office, with respect to public safety interests, from the County's policy/procedure. She cited under Policy Subsection B, which she highlighted in the Commission packets pertaining to this. Also, she continued, under the position review by the District Attorney, his designee may serve if the D.A. cannot. Lastly, at the end of the Policy, it should be made effective upon adoption and remain in effect until further review by the Board of County Commissioners. It was noted during the discussion that in an emergency, hiring someone quickly in one of the exempt offices would be appropriate, and in fact the Sheriff's Dept. is already doing this. Commissioner Carol McKenzie noted that when they were down some EMTs, volunteers were used until such time as the actual hiring could take place. She added that if those offices are left in, it doesn't mean it would happen every time, but it would protect those departments. Commissioner Richard Howe felt that there are certain qualifications needed for certain jobs, and in an emergency we would need to get someone in there as soon as possible who is qualified. D.A. Wheable pointed out that the Board approved hiring an Attorney today, and he explained the lengthy process that now must follow. Finance Director Elizabeth Frances noted that the Sheriff's Dept. is demonstrating it can be done; the appeal process is in place, and perhaps putting a timeline within the appeal process would be beneficial. Commissioner Mike Coster felt a deadline shouldn't need to be established, citing good faith. Commissioner Mike Coster made a motion to adopt this draft delayed hiring policy precisely as written. Commissioner Carol McKenzie seconded. Commissioner Laurie Carson commented that we can assume this is a living document, and if there are any issues they could be brought forward promptly. Motion carried 4:1, with Commissioner Richard Howe voting in opposition. He stated that he's not 100% against this, but he felt there's a lot of information he needs to absorb.

**AIRPORT:**

**DISCUSSION ONLY: REVIEW OF NDOT AVIATION SAFETY INSPECTION ON 12/18/15**

Airport Manager Steve Stork cited his written report on this, and touched on highlights for the Board; he noted the inspection report is an 11-page document. There was some discussion of the berm initially put in by the Army Corps of Engineers, but which had been moved. Road Superintendent Bill Miller clarified that at that time, the Airport Manager was part time and the FAA identified the wrong runway, so the

berm needed to be moved 50'. The FBO had stated he would move it himself, which he did, and then proceeded to charge the County for the work. The material used was contaminated, and doesn't repel water properly; there's no gravel in it. Manager Stork also noted that while there has been no centerline weather heaving yet this year, the touchdown markers are showing 4" heaving and this is definitely a safety issue. Nothing can be done to repair those markers, short of reconstruction, as he explained. There is no immediate hazard, though, unless a pilot chooses to land far left or right of the center. Armstrong Consultants will be addressing that issue in the new construction, he assured the Board. Commissioner Mike Coster also advised the Board that Mr. D'Milo Hallerberg has now assumed direct management of the Ely Jet Center by replacing Mr. James Adams in that capacity.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL OF THE UPDATED 2016-2021 AIRPORT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (ACIP) FOR ELY AIRPORT/YELLAND FIELD**

Manager Stork advised this Plan is updated annually. It projects 5 years into the future, and indicates what projects we will be spending monies on as well as the ones we will want to complete. This Plan was drafted by Armstrong Consultants, and covers from 2016-2021. He advised this is the first step to get a comprehensive pavement program set in place. The costs will impact our County budgets, and he proceeded to explain the funding that would be needed to complete the necessary pavement and reconstruction required to keep the Airport viable. Chairman Gary Perea entertained a motion to approve as requested. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to approve the updated 2016-2021 Airport Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP) for Ely Airport/Yelland Field. Commissioner Carol McKenzie seconded. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL OF 2016-2017 ACIP GRANT APPLICATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,699,476 WITH A LOCAL MATCH OF \$179,965 FOR PHASE II OF RUNWAY 18/36 PAVEMENT REHABILITATION**

Airport Manager Steve Stork reported that after talking with Director Frances and completing the awarded contract, there is \$163,099+ remaining in the ACIP budget. This will require transfers in to complete; he noted that State funding is possible from the State Aviation Trust Fund, comprising perhaps \$25,000, which will keep us in a positive fund balance but will still fall short of what we will need the following year. He confirmed that monies are available to augment what has been budgeted. Director Frances confirmed that as long as the State funds come through this is feasible; otherwise, a transfer from the General Fund would be necessary to make up the shortfall. Chairman Gary Perea entertained a motion to approve this application as requested. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to approve the 2016-2017 ACIP grant application in the amount of \$2,699,476 with a local match of \$179,965 for Phase II of Runway 18/36 pavement rehabilitation. Commissioner Mike Coster seconded. Motion carried.

At 11:42 a.m., Chairman Gary Perea recessed the regular Commission meeting and opened the Special Fire Commission meeting. At 1:13 p.m., Fire Commission Chairman Gary Perea adjourned the Special Fire Commission meeting and reconvened the regular Commission meeting.

**FINANCE:**

**DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL TO APPOINT FINANCE TO FORM A COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE PRESENTATIONS FROM COMPANIES THAT RESPONDED TO THE REQUESTS FOR QUALIFICATIONS/PROPOSALS FOR A BROKER OF RECORD FOR PROPERTY AND LIABILITY INSURANCE**

Finance Director Elizabeth Frances noted this committee will serve both the WPC Fire District and the Board of County Commissioners. Following brief discussion, Chairman Gary Perea entertained a motion

to do this as requested. Commissioner Carol McKenzie made a motion to appoint Finance to form a committee to review the presentations from companies that responded to the requests for qualifications/-proposals for a broker of record for property and liability insurance. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried 4:1, with Commissioner Richard Howe voting in opposition.

**DISCUSSION/RATIFICATION OF THE AIRPORT LIABILITY INSURANCE RENEWAL WITH ACE PROPERTY AND CASUALTY COMPANY FOR ONE YEAR IN AN ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$5,953 WITHOUT OPTIONS FOR WAR AND/OR TERRORISM COVERAGE PER THE PROPOSAL PROVIDED IN THE BACKUP MATERIALS**

Chairman Gary Perea advised there was a 3-year option included in their proposal, but that was discarded and it was felt this should be done for just one year. Following brief discussion, Commissioner Mike Coster made a motion to ratify the Airport Liability Insurance renewal with Ace Property and Casualty Company for one year in an annual amount of \$5,953 without options for war and/or terrorism coverage per the proposal provided in the backup materials. Commissioner Carol McKenzie seconded. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL TO START ALLOCATING GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES TO OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS AS APPROPRIATE IN FY2017 PER THE FINANCIAL STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE PROPOSAL;**

**DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL TO DEDICATE 3 CENTS AD VALOREM TAX FROM THE INDIGENT FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND IN FY2017 PER THE FINANCIAL STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE PROPOSAL; and**

**DISCUSSION/UPDATE ON FY2016 ESTIMATED ENDING GENERAL FUND BALANCE**

Chairman Gary Perea noted for the record that he had requested the above agenda items, but that they will be carried to the next Commission agenda.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL OF MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR DECEMBER 2015**

Director Frances cited the materials in the Commission packets for the monthly financial reports. She advised we are behind in revenues, which she felt was a timing issue at this point, but she will be investigating that along with Assessor Burton Hilton and Treasurer Catherine Bakaric. They will disclose the results in the next month's financial report. Following brief discussion, Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to approve the monthly financial reports for December 2015. Commissioner Carol McKenzie seconded. Motion carried.

**ADVISORY BOARDS**

There were no items to report.

**CONSENT AGENDA: TO RATIFY CORRESPONDENCE; APPROVE PAYROLL FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS; APPROVE HR TRANSMITTAL FOR PAYROLL CHANGES; APPROVE BUDGET TRANSFERS WITHIN/BETWEEN FUNCTIONS/PROGRAMS WITHIN A FUND THAT DO NOT INCREASE THE TOTAL APPROPRIATION OF THE FUND**

Chairman Gary Perea asked if all the correspondence is going into the Consent Agenda; Commissioner Laurie Carson noted that usually a copy of letters sent to be ratified should be included. District Attorney Mike Wheable asked if there were some letters that went out that perhaps weren't included; the reply was affirmative. WPC Clerk Nichole Baldwin asked if the Clerk's Office could please receive copies of those as well. Commissioner Laurie Carson noted this is all part of the transition process. Commissioner

Laurie Carson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Richard Howe seconded. Motion carried.

### UNTIMED ITEMS

#### APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

##### Resignations

Randy Henefer, Ruth Town Council

##### Appointments/Reappointments

Thomas Hinkle, Ruth Town Council

Daniel Hathaway, Baker Area Citizens Advisory Board

Craig Baker, Baker Area Citizens Advisory Board

Lynne Hoffman, WPC Planning Commission (Baker)

Rodney Gamble, LEPC (First Aid)

Barbara Stephey, LEPC Alternate (First Aid)

Jim Derrick, LEPC (EMS)

Martin Troutt, Ag. Dist. 13/Fair & Rodeo Advisory Board

WPC Clerk Nichole Baldwin read of the resignation of Mr. Randy Henefer from Ruth Town Council. She requested tabling the replacement, Mr. Thomas Hinkle, as she hasn't received the Statement of Qualifications back from him as of today. She continued to read the list of appointments to the Board. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Randy Henefer from Ruth Town Council and to appoint those on the list of appointments as requested, with the exception of Mr. Thomas Hinkle. Commissioner Mike Coster seconded. Motion carried.

#### APPROVAL OF COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES

##### January 13

There were a couple of corrections noted to this set of minutes. Following brief discussion, Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to approve the January 13 set of Commission minutes with corrections noted. Commissioner Carol McKenzie seconded. Motion carried.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

--Chairman Gary Perea advised he had contacted City Clerk Bob Switzer and the City has on their agenda tomorrow an item regarding their options for negotiating. He clarified for the assemblage that in December, the County Commission had agreed to place on our agenda to discuss this, but that we didn't discuss actually having a meeting. He would like, however, to have that conversation prior to the actual negotiations. He continued that he would hope to have back on the agenda an item to form the committee and move forward. Chairman Perea advised he will discuss with the City Manager to set up how to move forward and how we will proceed into negotiations. In reply to a query from the Board, he continued that it would be himself, WPC Fire District Chief Brett Waters, Ely Fire Chief Ross Rivera, and their City Manager, who would be having that discussion. The agenda item on the Commission agenda would be to appoint the committee.

--Job Description for Deputy District Attorney I-Civil.

--Commissioner Laurie Carson advised a SNPLMA Coordinator needs to be determined.

--WPC Fire Chief Brett Waters' grant report.

--The items that were tabled under Finance (allocating General Fund expenditures; the 3 cent ad valorem tax; and 2016 estimated ending fund balance).

--District Attorney Mike Wheable as the Homeland Security Group representative letter; the dates just need to be changed, it was noted.

--Public Hearing for the Verizon Tower in McGill.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

District Attorney Mike Wheable advised the NRS pertaining to the fuel tax increase is a 45-page statute. He noted that Section 17 begins with "all other counties besides Washoe and Clark MUST..." so we must go through the process as per the earlier discussion.

Road Maintenance Superintendent Bill Miller noted that there are several taxes that come to the Road Dept. which are utilized for different things. He is currently awaiting LCD to give us some verbage as to what we can/can't spend our funds on; this information will be required for the ballot question on the fuel tax increase.

D.A. Wheable also noted that good quality American Flags may be ordered for \$130 or less, as we need a nice one for our Commission meetings.

Commissioner Laurie Carson advised she won't be at the second Commission meeting in February as she will be attending the National NACo Legislative Conference in Washington D.C., from February 19-24.

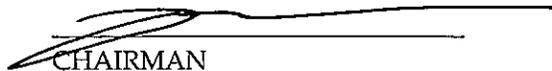
At this point, Ms. Donna Bath arrived at the meeting with a new American Flag. She had attended today's meeting and noticed the poor shape of the flag we are currently using, and explained this is a donation from Senator Dean Heller's office. The Board commended her on this timely donation, and extended their thanks to Senator Heller.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Gary Perea adjourned the meeting at 1:42 p.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY OF WHITE PINE  
STATE OF NEVADA

BY:

  
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

  
WPC CLERK OF THE BOARD  
