

IN A REGULAR MEETING OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY COMMISSION HELD ON FEBRUARY 10, 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

Karen Collis, Public Health Nurse
Kathy Ricci, Human Resources Director
Bill Calderwood, Facility Maint. Supertd't.
Bill Miller, Road Maint. Superintendent
Elizabeth Frances, Finance Director
Mike Wheable, District Attorney
Chris Ricci, Sr. Center Program Director
Burton Hilton, WPC Assessor
Melissa Brown, Deputy Attorney General
Catherine Bakaric, WPC Treasurer
Elanie Calderwood, Financial Analyst
Brad Christensen, Building Official

Also Present

Geri Wopschall
Ron Miller
Angela Martin, Robinson Nevada Mine
Julie Krch, Learning Bridge Charter School
Kaylee Cracraft, Learning Bridge Charter School
Ross Johnson, Ely Times
George Chachas, KGTV-10
Luis Tristan
Maxine Lantz, Victim & Witness Services
Bob Dolezal, WPC School District
Mary Kerner, White Pine County School District
Adam Christensen, Dixie Leavitt Agency
Jenna Trujillo, Dixie Leavitt Insurance
Jeff Hyde, Dixie Leavitt Insurance
Lindsey Wanlass, Dixie Leavitt Agency
Mike Higbec, Dixie Leavitt Agency
Evelyn Hullin, Wells Fargo Insurance
John Smales, ISU McMullen Insurance
Trinity Steelman, ISU McMullen Insurance
Anne McMullen, ISU McMullen Insurance
Quincy Branch, Branch Benefits Consulting
Tara Jacquet, Branch Benefits Consulting

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Kaylee Cracraft, 6th Grader at Learning Bridge Charter School, invited the Commissioners to come to her school. She listed recent events: National School Choice Week, held 2 weeks ago, during which students provided tours of the school and donuts. Following the event, the school put on a choreographed dance routine which was made public via You Tube. She continued that this is the Chinese New Year, the Year of the Monkey, and this past Monday there was a celebration for that with parents volunteering at various stations (such as crafts). It was a great learning experience for the students. Next Wednesday, the school has its Science Fair, which is open to the public from 7:30 AM to

4:00PM. There will be an awards assembly for the Science Fair at 6:00 PM on that day. Ms. Cracraft added that the 6th grade class swims at the Aquatic Center for P.E., plus two days a month they enjoy 5 hours of Free Swimming. For Valentine's Day, this coming Friday, the class will go bowling, with all expenses being donated and their parents helping with the transportation to and from the bowling alley. The Board thanked her for her information.

Mr. George Chachas addressed various ongoing concerns: He is requesting to remove members of the Tourism & Recreation Board who don't meet the minimum requirements for membership. He has been requesting information from the RTC for 3-4 years, not received anything, and wants their Chairman to be replaced. He cited projects on Orson Avenue and 7th Street East, which go back for 3 years, that were paid for from funds that shouldn't have been used for those city streets. The tax list for people should have been published in the newspaper by now. The last Planning Commission meeting was held 5 miles out of town; he asked how could people be encouraged to attend those, when they are held outside the City? He also noted that he has received nothing regarding an updated Home Occupation/Special Permit list. Mr. Chachas added that the Planning Commission doesn't have a representative from McGill, Baker, etc., the towns outside of Ely, in their membership. He continued with concerns about an agenda item today regarding negotiations with different entities, and that the County should "hold the line" and not go for any more increases or taxes. He added that concerning the County's efforts to reduce costs, the Building Official with the City is "double dipping" by sharing services, in his opinion. He felt the Building Official's salary should be split by the City/County.

WPC Assessor Burton Hilton advised, in response to Mr. Chachas' concern, that during the last Legislative Session there were changes to the NRS made so it is no longer required to publish the tax list in the newspaper. He added it is available for public inspection on their website, plus hard copies are available at no cost at the Assessor's office.

At 9:10 a.m., Chairman Gary Perea recessed the regular Commission meeting and opened the Fire Commission meeting. At 9:12 a.m., Fire Commission Chairman Gary Perea adjourned the Fire Commission meeting and reconvened the regular Commission meeting.

ITEMS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

COMMISSION:

DISCUSSION/RECEIVE COMMENTS ON CLOSURE OF COUNTY OFFICES FOR HAZARDOUS WEATHER CONDITIONS ON FEBRUARY 1, 2016 PROTOCOL AND PROCEDURES

Chairman Gary Perea proceeded to report on the storm timeline, which affected Ely, Baker, and parts of Utah, besides other areas around the County. He received calls from people asking if the County offices would be open; he subsequently called the Sheriff's Dept. and Road Dept. for their input. Both departments agreed it would be unsafe for people to try to come to work. Chairman Perea then talked with Human Resources Director Kathy Ricci, who read from the Personnel Policy regarding such situations, and he made the decision to close the County facilities. He agreed it is a bad policy from which to make a determination, and he added that people could decide to go in to work should they choose to do so, as the policy is written. Human Resources Director Kathy Ricci clarified that per the current policy, in an emergency the employees have the option to either come to work or stay at home; however, you would have to take either annual or comp time for it. Much discussion followed on this.

Chairman Perea noted we do have the option of giving each employee an additional day of annual leave or comp time, to make up for that lost day. He feels we should bring back this policy, as it is unsafe as written, plus there are ramifications to have to deal with afterwards, which we are having to do now.

Commissioner Richard Howe felt the Chairman made the right decision as it was a safety issue for all our employees. However, we do have to make the hard decisions; he felt the employee complaints that were received were "whining." He maintained that annual leave, vacation, etc. are benefits the employees get from the County, and he isn't in favor of reimbursing the employees for their hours taken. He added he would like to leave the policy as is written. Chairman Perea stated that we still need to make some adjustments to the policy, and with legal counsel we can discuss that. It was noted District Attorney Mike Wheable had also reviewed the policy and made comment.

Commissioner Laurie Carson agreed that as written, the policy is appropriate. For those employees who were out there, cleaning up, it was easier for them as there was no traffic. She agreed that it was the right thing to do. District Attorney Mike Wheable felt we could place this on the next Commission agenda; he will discuss this further with our Finance Director. Chairman Perea felt that agenda item could also include a new draft policy addressing administrative leave, making it retroactive so everyone could remain whole.

Chairman Perea asked for further comment: WPC Assessor Burton Hilton agreed with Commissioner Carson in that it was the right thing to do. He appreciated that all of his staff were prepared to come to work anyway, but he advised them not to. They took either their annual or comp time, but he personally felt that on their behalf they weren't given that option. He just wished to comment on their behalf, and wondered why we were taking away their negotiated benefit for this.

Juvenile Probation Officer Lynette Gust felt the Board made the right choice, she appreciated that. She also didn't feel she was "whining," it is a bad policy, and the Board needs to fix it. She didn't feel like she had the right to come to work; she asked if they could just fix it so we all don't have to go through this again, and emphasized that it needs to be made right.

Commissioner Mike Coster felt the Board made exactly the right decision, and that it was also well-executed. He sought communications from the employees on this; Deputy Clerk Susan Lujan also received some comments. Basically, he reported the comments were that the employees understood work was cancelled, it was posted several times on Facebook, and Commissioner Coster felt the policy in place was fine for that situation. He doesn't want to lose that; if an employee wants to take advantage of after-the-fact leave approval, he would like closure on how to handle it. He added that if it was an option, phone notification from the Sheriff's Dept. would have been good.

Chairman Perea felt a standard procedure is needed; Commissioner Carson suggested having a designated Information Officer review it as well, and a determination for disseminating information under emergency situations could be addressed.

Commissioner Howe asked how much one day's pay for County employees will cost; Finance Director Elizabeth Frances advised she could have that information ready for the next Commission meeting. Commissioner Howe continued that this is a team effort; we're in a budget crunch, we get 20-25 days of vacation per year, and there comes a time when we all have to step back and help our employer. He does understand the employees were forced to stay at home, but he's also sorry the County would have to pay roughly \$12,000 for this.

Commissioner Carol McKenzie agreed this was a good idea, citing her having to travel from Lund otherwise during those conditions. She felt it was the best thing the County could have done. She agreed

the policy will need to be "tweaked" in order for it to work better for us under such weather conditions. She wants to just move forward and fix this.

Ms. Maxine Lantz commented as a private citizen, that it would have been nice to use the Sheriff's Dept. phone system to notify the employees that the offices were closed. She added that Eureka County offices were also closed. Chairman Perea agreed that would have been a good option.

At 9:30 a.m., Chairman Gary Perea opened the scheduled Public Hearing:

ORDINANCES, FIRST READINGS, PUBLIC HEARINGS, BID OPENINGS, DECISIONS

PUBLIC HEARING

PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING IS TO CONSIDER A PROPOSED APPLICATION FOR CONDITIONAL/SPECIAL USE AND/OR VARIANCE – VERIZON WIRELESS PROPOSES A NEW 40' X 40' WIRELESS COMMUNICATION FACILITY TO INCLUDE A 104' MONOPOLE TOWER AND A STANDBY DIESEL GENERATOR – CONSIDERATION WILL ALSO BE GIVEN TO THE POSSIBLE CAMOUFLAGING OF THE TOWER – PROPERTY ADDRESS AND/OR GENERAL LOCATION IS 7 A FIRST STREET IN MCGILL, NV, POINT OF BEGINNING CONTAINING 24,343 SQ FT MORE OR LESS, WITHIN THE MCGILL TOWNSITE, IN KENNECOTT COPPER CO. OPERATIONS AREAS – APN IS 004-074-03 – APPLICANT IS AIR TOUCH CELLULAR dba VERIZON WIRELESS

Chairman Gary Perea read the text title into the record. He advised this has been discussed over a period of time, and now everything is lined up properly. He continued that last December the question arose of the tower being located in the McGill townsite; it was determined that it would be. Commissioner Mike Coster added that public comment gathered last November was totally in support of this, and as a property owner in McGill he supports it as well. He cited the existing poor quality of cell service in McGill, and that their Town Council also is in favor of this. Commissioner Laurie Carson asked about camouflaging the tower, and if that had been discussed by the Planning Commission. Commissioner Carol McKenzie advised that hadn't been addressed, but it would be nice if it was, since camouflage of similar structure had been done in other areas. It was noted the cost for that would be expensive, but it could be done after-the-fact if desired. During the discussion, it was noted the Commission could place special conditions on the tower, such as for camouflage; Chairman Perea felt we could just ask the firm to consider it at this point. There was no public comment, so the Public Hearing was closed.

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED APPLICATION FOR CONDITIONAL/SPECIAL USE AND/OR VARIANCE – VERIZON WIRELESS PROPOSES A NEW 40' X 40' WIRELESS COMMUNICATION FACILITY TO INCLUDE A 104' MONOPOLE TOWER AND A STANDBY DIESEL GENERATOR – CONSIDERATION WILL ALSO BE GIVEN TO THE POSSIBLE CAMOUFLAGING OF THE TOWER – PROPERTY ADDRESS AND/OR GENERAL LOCATION IS 7 A FIRST STREET IN MCGILL, NV, POINT OF BEGINNING CONTAINING 24,343 SQ FT MORE OR LESS, WITHIN THE MCGILL TOWNSITE, IN KENNECOTT COPPER CO. OPERATIONS AREAS – APN IS 004-074-03 – APPLICANT IS AIR TOUCH CELLULAR dba VERIZON WIRELESS

Chairman Gary Perea asked for additional comments; there were none. Chairman Perea entertained a motion to approve this as requested. Commissioner Mike Coster made a motion to approve the proposed application of Air Touch Cellular doing business as Verizon Wireless on APN #004-074-03, as stated. Commissioner Carol McKenzie seconded. District Attorney Mike Wheable asked Building Official Brad Christensen if everything was acceptable regarding this; Official Christensen responded in the

affirmative. D.A. Wheable also asked about the Fictitious Firm Name of Air Touch Cellular; Deputy Clerk Susan Lujan advised she had been in contact with the company, who confirmed that Air Touch Cellular is part of the Cellco Partnership, which currently has the dba on Verizon Wireless. Motion carried.

UNTIMED ITEMS

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL OF LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ADDITION TO WHITE PINE HIGH SCHOOL

WPC School District Superintendent Bob Dolezal provided a handout to the Board addressing this. He advised they are preparing a grant to the Pennington Foundation in Reno, who has expressed the willingness for us to obtain an application to build a Health Occupations Training Center. It would be built at the west end of the High School, as noted by the handout drawing. He added they've provided over 10 years of medical-related classes to students, but lacked the room. This would be for a 5,200 sq ft facility, consisting of a classroom plus a 5-bed simulated hospital environment and a physical therapy room. There would also be a "sick bay" provided for the School Nurse. Superintendent Dolezal advised they are working with the Hospital and Physical Therapists on this; it would also be a good place for EMTs to train, he noted. The Regional Training Center would be utilized by the School District, but also by Great Basin College and other entities. He is requesting a letter of support from the Board for this; the application must be done on Friday. The Board all agreed this would be great. Commissioner Mike Coster made a motion to promptly write a letter of support for the Health Occupations Addition as presented, with the assistance of the County Clerk's office and Mr. Dolezal. Commissioner Carol McKenzie seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL TO SEND LETTER TO DELEGATION ASKING TO CHANGE THE TELEVISION VIEWING AREA FROM UTAH TO NEVADA

Chairman Gary Perea advised Congressman Cresent Hardy is advocating this; he has mixed feelings about it, though, since we've had Salt Lake City news for so long, but then noted "this is an election year" and he would like to see Nevada news. Commissioner Richard Howe is in favor of receiving Nevada news, and advised that just getting Nevada advertising will help the people in our State as opposed to going into Utah to shop. He felt both economically and socially this would be a great idea. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to approve sending a letter to the delegation asking to change the television viewing area from Utah to Nevada. Commissioner Mike Coster seconded. Mr. George Chachas also commented as having been a public official in several capacities, and now as a private citizen; he has gone before various people and entities regarding this, and that the FCC has designated this area as being consigned to Utah. He noted right now we are enjoying the best television reception we've had in years, and that 2/3 of the available channels are viewable from Nevada. Chairman Gary Perea pointed out, however, that neither Dish nor Direct TV have that ability; he also cited issues with advertising from another State as well. Mr. Chachas felt that in the worst case, we should have the option of buying the channel(s). Chairman Perea noted we should see how the delegation receives our letter first. Commissioner Laurie Carson added that Senator Pete Goicoechea is also in favor of switching the venue from Utah to Nevada as well. Motion carried.

ITEMS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

ASSESSOR:

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR FY 2016-17 ON THE FOLLOWING STATE OF NEVADA, DIV. OF WATER RESOURCES LISTS FOR HUMBOLDT RIVER DISTRIBUTION, \$291.84; AND WHITE RIVER DISTRIBUTION, \$3,341.26, PER NRS 533.280, 533.285, AND 533.290

Chairman Gary Perea read the text title into the record. WPC Assessor Burton Hilton noted these special assessments are done annually; he explained that assessments are put onto the specific parcels, the monies are taken in, and sent on to the State for management of the pertinent groundwater basins. Following brief discussion, Commissioner Mike Coster made a motion to approve the special assessments for FY2016-17 for the Humboldt River distribution and White River distribution as stated. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR FY 2016-17 ON THE FOLLOWING STATE OF NEVADA, DIV. OF WATER RESOURCES LISTS FOR STEPTOE VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN, \$11,481.58; HUNTINGTON VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN FOR \$2,627.58; AND LAKE VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN FOR \$86.64, PER NRS 534.040

Chairman Gary Perea read the text title into the record. Commissioner Mike Coster made a motion to approve the special assessments precisely as read by the Commission Chairman. Commissioner Richard Howe seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL OF THE LUND IRRIGATION COMPANY'S 2016-17 SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR: LUND STREAM FOR \$1,635.50; HOME RANCH FOR \$3,654.50; AND LUND FIELD STREAM FOR \$3,349.00

Commissioner Carol McKenzie noted these have been on the special assessments list for years. Assessor Hilton explained this information comes from the Lund Irrigation Company, and is separated out from each other since different NRS' apply to each. He added that the Commission would be approving putting the special assessments on for their property taxes. Commissioner Mike Coster made a motion to approve the Lund Irrigation Company's 2016-17 special assessments for Lund Stream, Home Ranch, and Lund Field Stream as agendaed. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried. Assessor Hilton also thanked WPC Clerk Nichole Baldwin for catching the error in the initial agenda item request.

CLERK:

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COUNTY CLERK ON PERSONS INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE COMMITTEES TO PREPARE ARGUMENTS ADVOCATING AND OPPOSING THE APPROVAL OF BALLOT QUESTIONS FOR THE 2016 ELECTION YEAR PURSUANT TO NRS 295.121

This item was tabled; WPC Clerk Nichole Baldwin explained that at the time the agenda item was prepared, she had obtained the correct number of people to sit on the committee. However, since that time more people wished to be included as members, so she was no longer making a recommendation to the Board but was in effect just preparing a list for the Commissioners to choose from. District Attorney Mike Wheable added this will be worked on prior to putting it back on the agenda.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH WPC SHERIFF'S EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION FOR THE 2016-2017 CONTRACT

Human Resources Director Kathy Ricci cited the information in the Commission packets and advised she is recommending this, as it's part of the process to open the negotiations. Chairman Gary Perea

entertained a motion to approve this as requested. Commissioner Mike Coster made a motion to approve entering into negotiations with the WPC Sheriff's Employees' Association for the 2016-2017 contract. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Commissioner Coster asked about a 2-year contract, and that he is still looking at that with respect to his motion limiting the contract to only 1 year. Director Ricci advised that the current contract ends June 30th, so that's part of the negotiating process, to look at how many years the contract would go. District Attorney Mike Wheable advised that modifying the motion to indicate the contract could go from 2016-2017 or from 2016-2018 would cover it. Commissioner Coster amended his motion to reflect the contract could go for either 1 or 2 years; Commissioner Carson amended her second. D.A. Wheable added that this could be discussed during the agenda item at the end of today's meeting. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL UNION NO. 3 FOR FY2016-2017

Director Ricci indicated this would be the same process. Commissioner Mike Coster made a motion to approve entering into negotiations with the Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3 for FY2016-17 or from FY2016-2018. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL TO APPOINT THE CURRENT NEGOTIATING TEAM OF MIKE WHEABLE, DISTRICT ATTORNEY; ELIZABETH FRANCES, FINANCE DIRECTOR; AND KATHY RICCI, HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR, TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL NO. 3 AND THE WPC SHERIFF'S EMPLOYEE'S ASSOCIATION

Chairman Gary Perea read the text title into the record. Director Ricci noted this had worked well in the past. Commissioner Richard Howe asked why a Commissioner isn't on this team; Commissioner Laurie Carson felt that it was in order to avoid an OML violation. District Attorney Mike Wheable felt we could have a Commissioner sit on the team; Commissioner Carson felt it really worked better and was more effective not to have one on. Commissioner Mike Coster asked if the team membership could be modified at a later date; Chairman Perea felt that sometimes by having a Commissioner there, the team would lose its focus. Some discussion ensued. Commissioner Richard Howe felt a Commissioner would be able to provide input into the negotiations, as to what the Commission would like to do. Chairman Perea noted that is the point; "one Commissioner can't speak for the Board." Commissioner Carson noted in the past it had worked well with discussions with the rest of the team. D.A. Wheable noted the team could always be modified. Commissioner Mike Coster made a motion to appoint the team of Mike Wheable, District Attorney; Elizabeth Frances, Finance Director; and Kathy Ricci, Human Resources Director, to enter into negotiations with Operating Engineers Local No. 3 and the WPC Sheriff's Employees' Association. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL OF JOB DESCRIPTION FOR DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY I-CIVIL AS REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Director Ricci advised this Job Description has been approved by District Attorney Mike Wheable. As this is a new position, she continued, she is asking the Commission to approve it. Chairman Gary Perea wished to clarify per the procedure, that the Board approves it and then she can go ahead and hire, and it doesn't need to come back to the Board; Director Ricci confirmed this. Commissioner Carol McKenzie felt this Job Description is really good, and she noted it's very comprehensive. Commissioner Mike Coster made a motion to approve the Job Description for Deputy District Attorney I-Civil as reviewed and approved by the District Attorney. Commissioner Carol McKenzie seconded. Motion carried.

NUTRITION PROGRAM:

DISCUSSION/ACTION/RATIFICATION OF NUTRITION SERVICES INCENTIVE PROGRAM (NSIP) FROM THE STATE OF NEVADA AGING & DISABILITY SERVICES GRANT AWARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,172.00 WITH NO MATCH

As Sr. Program Director Chris Ricci was unable to attend at this time, Finance Director Elizabeth Frances confirmed this is an annual grant with no match required; she recommended approval. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to ratify the Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP) from the State of Nevada Aging & Disability Services grant award in the amount of \$2,172.00 with no match. Commissioner Mike Coster seconded. Motion carried.

At 10:03 a.m., Chairman Gary Perea recessed the Commission meeting for a break. The meeting was reconvened at 10:15 a.m.

FINANCE:

DISCUSSION/UPDATE ON FY2016 ESTIMATED ENDING GENERAL FUND BALANCE

Finance Director Elizabeth Frances provided an update to the Board. She noted there are still many variables, but we are closer to our original target. While there are \$6,000+ over projected expenditures, she explained that will be absorbed since many of the County Departments underspent their budgets. She also cited the real and personal property taxes are not accurate either, but that's because of how the Assessor and Treasurer billings are done; also, those are the figures received from the Nv. Department of Taxation. She has yet to hear back from Taxation on a centrally-assessed figure, as well. The Net Proceeds of Minerals amount was set to zero, since the mines aren't getting all their returns in; a final figure will perhaps be received by May. She noted that while we could be receiving additional funds, we could also end up sending money back if Net Proceeds are overestimated. Commissioner Carson also asked if the mines would be going back to paying it as it has been done in the past. Director Frances' reply was, since the Legislation has passed and it will be going into effect next year, there will be zero estimates for the next 12 months. Director Frances continued that the franchise fees were implemented later than they should have been; the CTX we always receive 2 months behind; and there are other instances where the estimates are affected by all these variables. She did report hearing a rumor that the Federal government will be fully funding PILT monies, and she hopes that is true. Director Frances reported that we did see some cost savings by replacing a full-time position in the Treasurer's office with a half-time position, and the EDC Office Director hasn't been replaced. However, those savings will also be offset by our hiring a Civil District Attorney; plus, a murder case is coming in the near future, which will mean roughly \$15,000 above what is currently budgeted. She did note we may be able to utilize some Contingency funds in that event. Commissioner Laurie Carson asked about the contract for Rural Health Care; Director Frances noted it is down several thousand dollars, and a meeting with the State is being scheduled to ensure there will be monies available for that. There followed some discussion, after which Chairman Gary Perea thanked Director Frances for putting this report together. Director Frances assured the Board that she will keep them apprised as more information comes in.

At 10:25 a.m., Chairman Gary Perea opened the Grant Reports portion of the agenda.

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

Emergency Management – Brett Waters

- O HMEP Training Grant – Some training has been accomplished through this grant.
- O SERC Planning, Training, Equipment Grant – Portable radios and other equipment have been purchased.

- EMPC –
- EPWG – This grant covered mostly salaries for Chief Waters and his support staff (Ms. Barbara Stephey) for administration.
- HMEP Mid-Cycle –

Finance Director Elizabeth Frances cited WPC Fire District Chief Brett Waters' written grant reports provided in the Commission packet. In reply to a query from Commissioner Richard Howe, Chairman Perea advised Chief Waters is attending training in Las Vegas. Following some discussion, Chairman Gary Perea entertained a motion to approve this report. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to approve the updates on the Emergency Management quarterly grant reports. Commissioner Carol McKenzie seconded. Motion carried.

At this point, Chairman Gary Perea advised Sr. Program Director Chris Ricci that her agenda item regarding ratification of the Nutrition Services grant had been covered earlier in today's meeting in her absence. Director Ricci thanked Commissioner Carol McKenzie for helping with a short turnaround on this grant.

FINANCE:

DISCUSSION/UPDATE OF DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION APPROVAL OF WHITE PINE COUNTY ET AL AUDITS AS COMPLIANT WITH NEVADA REVISED STATUTES

Chairman Gary Perea asked for comments from the Board; there were none. No action is necessary on this agenda item.

DISCUSSION/UPDATE ON NACo'S INNOVATION SUMMIT 2016: SHARING WHAT WORKS, ATTENDED BY CATHERINE BAKARIC AND ELIZABETH FRANCES

Finance Director Elizabeth Frances cited information on this in the Commission packet. She noted one of the subjects that was covered focused on reducing costs for social programs and County services. WPC Treasurer Catherine Bakaric attended several breakout sessions, and she felt this was the most relevant session to our circumstances. She advised she had taken some rough notes of what she felt might be interesting to the Board, and provided those in a handout. Director Frances agreed that much of what was discussed pertained to the same direction we are going. Basically, based on the data received decisions are made, which then carry through to the budget, as she explained. She added information was also disseminated on how to get funding to pay for different programs, such as how to stop the cycle of people moving continuously through the judicial system, addressing mental health issues in our jails, etc. Director Frances noted that another Innovation Summit will be held next year. Commissioner Laurie Carson applauded our Department Heads for attending this conference. She added it's useful to see how other counties/States adapt, and that we need to think outside the box in looking to the future. The Board thanked Director Frances and Treasurer Bakaric for their reports.

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

Director Frances indicated this agenda item had been tabled because she wished to have more information in hand. She spoke with Social Services Director Bunny Hill about this, and cited a memo as a result of that discussion on the ad valorem tax. She also noted the fund restrictions which prevent us from shifting monies into the General Fund, pertaining especially to this case. She explained this wouldn't just be for indigent services; it's considered "idle cash" and it may even be utilized to assist with funding County operations. She emphasized this proposed change won't be permanent, but it would allow more flexibility with respect to funding the indigent program. She continued that this

would be made part of the budget process, but we wouldn't be able to make any changes until the next fiscal year.

Social Services Management Assistant Desiree Barnson is here today for Director Bunny Hill; she reported that Director Hill wished the Board to be aware that there will be some effects from the Health Care Act, which are unknown at this point. It was noted that the actual indigent medical costs would be coming out of the General Fund. Chairman Gary Perea felt we should view this the same way as Net Proceeds of Minerals; while we have it now, we might not have it in the future. Commissioner Laurie Carson advised that while grant funds are available, if we still need to utilize the General Fund, we must be cautious not to go below the required \$500,000 ending fund balance to avoid penalties. She noted we could always change the percentage. It was felt revisiting this in 6 months would be helpful just to see how we're doing, rather than making this an annual budget item. Also, we would want to see the trend, to see the fund balance for Social Services and how it ends up. Chairman Perea felt a monthly report would show us how the fund is moving, month-to-month. He suggested adding a notation to the monthly report to indicate how things are going. Commissioner Richard Howe felt anything we could do to bolster the General Fund would be good; he would like us to lock in the 3 cents, and if necessary it can be reassessed in the future. He wished to clarify that the General Fund takes care of many Departments, but this 3 cents would be locked into Social Services; Finance Director Elizabeth Frances confirmed this. Chairman Gary Perea entertained a motion to dedicate this as requested. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to approve the dedication of 3 cents of ad valorem tax from the Indigent Fund to the General Fund in FY2017. Commissioner Richard Howe seconded. Motion carried. In reply to Commissioner Carson's question as to how other counties allocate this, Director Frances advised White Pine County is higher than any other County, with respect to how we fund our Social Services programs.

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

It was noted this same item under the Fire Commission agenda had been tabled. Finance Director Elizabeth Frances advised this mainly focuses on Maintenance; she cited the spreadsheet showing special revenue funds. She continued that while Facility Maintenance Superintendent Bill Calderwood is directed by the Commission to dip into those funds directly, the highlighted items are the Maintenance services being rendered outside of the General Fund. The process is first, identifying how to make the General Fund whole; and second, seeing how we are actually reporting the expenditures. We need to ascertain if we're accurately recording the total cost of a program, if we are absorbing some of those costs into the General Fund, she explained. There followed a detailed discussion of those funds by the Board, focusing on such items as the Lund Justice Court, the towns of McGill, Baker and Ruth, trash pickup cost comparison of using Maintenance rather than Ely Disposal, and other similar items. Superintendent Bill Calderwood will bring back some cost comparisons as requested, and Director Frances will research to see how each item discussed today would have an impact on the budget. She will bring back the results during the budget hearings; Chairman Gary Perea advised this agenda item will be tabled until that time.

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL TO APPOINT A BROKER OF RECORD FOR PROPERTY, LIABILITY AND WORKER'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE PURSUANT TO THE PROPOSALS DISTRIBUTED AT THE 1/27/16 COMMISSION MEETING

Director Frances advised this is just to determine compliance; there was very little deviation noted, and all was deemed compliant. She thanked WPC Assessor Burton Hilton for his assistance with reference checks; nothing adverse had come back, and in fact most of the proposals came back with very positive reports. In reply to a query from Chairman Gary Perea, Director Frances advised that in judging the

proposals she would either rely on the broker or the company to proffer legal advice as to if we would need coverage on something, or not. The same would hold true with claims processing, she added. Further on in the discussion, Director Frances also noted for the Board that all the brokers have had experience with both POOL/PACT; she felt that all the brokers are excellent providers, and "you can't make a wrong choice." There were a couple of disclosures by the Board: Chairman Gary Perea disclosed he does business with the Leavitt Group, both in his business and on a personal level. Commissioner Laurie Carson disclosed she knows the owner of the Leavitt Group. The Board member gave their selection suggestions: Commissioner Richard Howe would like to go with Warren Reed Insurance; Chairman Gary Perea liked both Warren Reed and the Leavitt Group, as did Commissioners Laurie Carson and Mike Coster. Following further brief discussion, Commissioner Richard Howe made a motion to appoint Warren Reed Insurance as the broker of record for property, liability and worker's compensation insurance. Commissioner Mike Coster seconded. Motion carried. Chairman Gary Perea thanked all the companies for coming to Ely and making their presentations.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

DISCUSSION/PRESENTATIONS FROM COMPANIES THAT RESPONDED TO THE REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS FOR WHITE PINE COUNTY'S BROKER OF RECORD FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES' HEALTH COVERAGE BENEFITS

Human Resources Director Kathy Ricci disclosed she has a friend who is with McMullen, and her neighbor is from the Leavitt Group. She thanked Ms. Chrissy Shady and Messrs. Sean Wilkin and Rob Leslie for reviewing the RFPs. She indicated all of them were found to be responsive/responsible. Finance Director Elizabeth Frances did the reference checks; she reported 2 came back favorable, and 2 had no responses to her query. Chairman Gary Perea advised the Board will act today on these, and opened the floor for the companies' presentations.

First to present was Branch Benefits Consulting. Mr. Quincy Branch introduced himself and Ms. Tara Jacquet. They are headquartered in Las Vegas; his father started the company over 15 years ago, and since that time they've opened offices in California and Washington, D.C. They service their clients not only in their core locations, but in other areas as well. He advised that they bring to the table a wealth of expertise, and have done seminars in the area of health care reform. Mr. Branch cited their technological advancements, and noted that they are experts in their field. As there were no questions from the Board, Chairman Gary Perea thanked them for their presentation.

Next was ISU McMullen; they provided copies of their power point presentation which they will highlight today. Mr. John Smales, President, introduced Vice-President Ms. Trinity Steelman, and their Benefits Manager, Ms. Anne McMullen. Their office is located in Elko, and they've been in business since 1951. They understand our rural needs, and they will support our employees and staff through their health network. They are active with various municipalities and can respond to our needs quickly and with quality information. They will help us with compliance, assist with claims, and our day-to-day activities; consulting services are also available. They can address our needs based on wellness events; they analyze data to create employee education sessions as well as benefit coverages. They thanked the Board for the opportunity to present.

Next was the Leavitt Group; Mr. Jeff Hyde introduced his staff, Ms. Linsey Wanless and Ms. Jenna Trujillo, who staffs their local office. Handouts were provided to the Board and highlighted items were briefly reviewed. Mr. Hyde advised they are a transparent company, in that it is specified in their service contract they are held accountable for what they say and do for their clients. The different types of plan options they offer were listed, and it was noted that upon renewal, they will explore all the opportunities

for a company of our size, and can even look at partially self-funded plans. He added that pooling is an option, although there are many requirements with that, but they are willing to explore that as well. It was advised their plans and programs can be tailored to fit just the County employees, or they could also get the whole town involved, as they have done this in the past. Chairman Perea thanked them for their presentation.

The last presentation was from Wells Fargo Insurance, who provided handouts to the Board. Ms. Evelyn Hullin came to present today; she's been with the company for 10 years, and in the brokerage business for 40 years. Wells Fargo has in-depth knowledge of public entity business; she is a Nevada native, and knows what public entities are faced with. Health care reform, State laws, budgets, and employee agreements all need to be dealt with, but Wells Fargo has a large compliance department that handles those issues. Ms. Hullin added that there are no added charges, everything is included in their proposal. She continued that they are constantly looking to the future, 5-10 years from now, and she sees the need for long-term strategic planning. In reply to a query from the Board, she noted Wells Fargo is currently our property and casualty company, but they would like to be our health provider as well.

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL TO SELECT A BROKER OF RECORD FOR WHITE PINE COUNTY'S EMPLOYEE HEALTH COVERAGE BENEFITS

Human Resources Director Kathy Ricci thanked everyone for their presentations today, and repeated the proposals were all found to be responsive/responsible. In reply to a query from the Board, she noted that McMullen and the Leavitt Group were the 2 firms that had received favorable reference checks. Director Frances added that she had made several calls, but hadn't received replies, no emails, or efax responses either for the other firms. She emphasized that is no reflection on whether their references are good or bad. During the discussion it was noted the City of Ely and the School District utilizes the Leavitt Group; the Hospital utilizes NRHP. Commissioner Howe also wished to indicate he liked McMullen and the Leavitt Group because they had talked about the possibility of pooling. Commissioner Mike Coster made a motion to select the Dixie Leavitt Company as broker of record for White Pine County's employee health coverage benefits. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. There was a brief discussion regarding the proper name for the broker; it was determined to be the Leavitt Group. Commissioner Mike Coster amended his motion to state the Levitt Group as the broker of record; Commissioner Laurie Carson amended her second. Amended motion carried.

FINANCE:

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FIVE MEMBER ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ENHANCE OR IMPROVE TELEPHONE SYSTEM FOR REPORTING EMERGENCIES AS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NUMBER 459

Finance Director Elizabeth Frances advised that the Ordinance requires a 5-member committee, composed of residents of the County. They may not be elected officials, and at least one member must be a representative of the local exchange carrier. She based her recommendations on position titles, rather than on people's names, which will allow for future changes as needed. The recommendations for the members are: Finance Director, Sheriff's Dept. Captain, Fire Chief, AT&T representative, and someone from public utilities, such as from Mt. Wheeler Power. During the discussion, Director Frances felt the local exchange carrier wouldn't include a wireless company at this point, although she will research the terminology with the District Attorney. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to approve recommendations for a five-member advisory committee to develop a plan to enhance or improve telephone system for reporting emergencies as required pursuant to Ordinance No. 459. Commissioner Carol McKenzie seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL TO APPOINT MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT TO OVERSEE SNPLMA APPLICATIONS AND EXECUTION OF PROJECTS WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT FOR BUDGETARY COMPLIANCE AND REPORTING

Commissioner Laurie Carson felt the terminology should be "Project Manager" for this task; the Board concurred, with District Attorney Mike Wheable noting they would be giving the Maintenance Superintendent the authority to oversee the projects. Since the Commission would be giving Superintendent Calderwood the authority, Commissioner Mike Coster suggested he could sign the SNPLMA applications and projects as "Project Manager." Chairman Gary Perea advised that the Finance Dept. does the majority of the work in this, however, and he wants to see it continue through the EDC Office, the way it's always been done, due to their expertise; he doesn't want that value to be lost. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to appoint Maintenance Superintendent to oversee SNPLMA applications and execution of projects. Commissioner Carol McKenzie seconded. During the discussion, Chairman Perea noted that Superintendent Calderwood and Sr. Management Assistant Elaine Blackham have been working together on these projects and going into the field for those, and he wants to see this continue. Commissioner Carson added they are already working with the BLM Director on SNPLMA. D.A. Wheable noted the authority would be assigned to Superintendent Calderwood, as the agenda item states. Commissioner Richard Howe advised he will continue to voice his opposition to EDC being involved. Insofar as naming Superintendent Calderwood to do the SNPLMA tasks, we also have the Finance Director, and he doesn't know why others would be needed; by adding the EDC Office he felt we'd just be adding another hurdle. Commissioner Mike Coster felt this would be authorizing Superintendent Calderwood to oversee the projects, period, and the rest of the mechanism would remain the same. He does agree with Commissioner Howe with moving the residual duties in EDC, but not for today. Chairman Perea felt these things are working well, he doesn't want to lose anything, and the expertise in the EDC Office is beneficial to these projects. The motion and second are on the floor, it was noted; motion carried 4:1, with Commissioner Richard Howe voting in opposition.

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL FOR WHITE PINE COUNTY TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS UNDER FEDERAL ICJR (IMPROVING CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE TO SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE AND STALKING) GRANT PROGRAM, WITH INSTRUCTION TO FINANCE DEPARTMENT TO SUBMIT LETTER OF INTENT AND APPLICATION WITH ALL DILIGENCE DUE TO THE TIME SENSITIVE NATURE OF APPLICATION PERIOD

District Attorney Mike Wheable advised this had been discussed with respect to seeking grant funds to preserve our prosecuting position; this agenda item is requesting approval from the Commission to apply for those funds. He did note that the program that comes from the State may be different; and if we are awarded this grant, it could be run through the County instead of the D.A.'s Office. Victim & Witness Services Program Director Maxine Lantz noted this grant came up suddenly, with a short timeframe. In order to apply, the letter of intent must be in by the 19th of this month. She added that they are asking for the 3-year grant of \$450,000, or \$150,000 for each year. The grant application itself must be submitted by March 3rd. Commissioner Laurie Carson noted the letter of intent could be included as correspondence to be ratified on our Consent Agenda. Following brief discussion, Commissioner Mike Coster made a motion to approve White Pine County to make application for grant funds under Federal ICJR grant program, with instruction to Finance Dept. to submit letter of intent and application process. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried.

ADVISORY BOARDS - There were none to report.

CONSENT AGENDA:

DISCUSSION/ACTION/RATIFICATION OF 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

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

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Snow Day – changes to protocol.
Sheriff's Dept. possibly utilizing their phone system for emergency notifications in the future.
The ballot question(s) verbage.
NevadaWorks meeting report from Commissioner Richard Howe.
Ratification of selection of insurance broker (Fire Commission).
Structured budget process (probably to discuss early March).
Engine Brake signage in Lund, Baker; no Ordinance in place currently to address those.

PUBLIC COMMENT

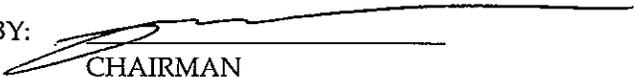
There was none.

DISCUSSION/ACTION/MOTION TO CLOSE OPEN MEETING FOR DISCUSSION WITH BOARD RELATED TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PURSUANT TO NRS 288.220

At 12:05 p.m., Chairman Gary Perea entertained a motion to go into Closed Session. Commissioner Mike Coster made a motion to go into Closed Session for discussion pursuant to NRS 288.220. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF WHITE PINE
STATE OF NEVADA

BY:


CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:


WPC CLERK OF THE BOARD

