

IN A REGULAR MEETING OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY COMMISSION HELD ON MARCH 9, 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

Bunny Hill, Social Services Director
Jennifer Farnworth, IT Specialist
Brett Waters, WPC Fire District Chief
Elaine Blackham, Sr. Management Assist't.
Kathy Ricci, Human Resources Director
Megan Brown, WPC Aquatic Center Dir.
Bill Calderwood, Facility Maint. Supert'dt.
Dan Watts, WPC Sheriff
Steve Stork, Airport Manager
Bill Miller, Road Maint. Superintendent
Catherine Bakaric, WPC Treasurer
Elizabeth Frances, Finance Director
Mike Wheable, District Attorney
Randy Long, Golf Course Professional
Dahn Puckett, Administrative Assistant

Also Present

Ron Miller
Geri Wopschall
Donna Bath
George Chachas
Angela Martin, Water Advisory Committee
Ross Johnson, Ely Times
Rusty Lewis
Bill Butts, Water Advisory Committee
Terry McIntosh
Ross Rivera, Ely City Fire Chief
Kathryn Griffith, Ely Shoshone Tribe
Randy Burggraff, Kinross
Jay Dixon, Kinross

Chairman Gary Perea called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. District Attorney Mike Wheable led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Gary Perea noted that if there is a particular agenda item that a member of the public wants brought forward, there is a form on the website which may be downloaded, filled out and taken to the Clerk's Office to start the process so the Board can address it.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. George Chachas appreciated the website information from Chairman Perea. He is requesting the Board remove members of the Tourism & Recreation Board who don't meet the NRS requirements for membership on that board. He also stated the Bristlecone Convention Center is competing against the private sector for events. RTC Chairman Wayne Cameron also needs to release public information; so far no one is listening to Mr. Chachas' requests. He cited an agreement between the RTC and a private individual on a project located on Orson Avenue, which has yet to be completed. Another project, on 7th Street East, involving curb and gutter, hasn't been completed either. Mr. Chachas continued on the Planning Commission agenda there are items pertaining to the EDC, and that office needs to go away. Also, he advised that the Planning Commission held a meeting March 2nd, for which he never received an agenda. He also asked about a County employee running for office, and if that person can take on another responsibility during working hours.

At 9:10 a.m., Chairman Gary Perea recessed the regular Commission meeting and opened the Fire Commission meeting. At 9:47 a.m., Fire Commission Chairman Gary Perea adjourned the Fire Commission meeting and reconvened the regular Commission meeting.

9:30 A.M. - DISCUSSION ONLY: INTRODUCTION TO KINROSS/RANDY BURGGRAFF, GENERAL MANAGER AT BALD MOUNTAIN AND BRIEF UPDATE ON PERMITTING

Mr. Randy Burggraff, General Manager of Bald Mountain Mine, introduced himself and Mr. Jay Dixon, Sr. Engineer. He explained their mine is located on the west side of White Pine County, 10 miles out of Eureka; currently they employ 460 persons, which will increase to 500 by mid-summer. They run buses from Ely twice daily. He noted their company is based in Toronto, Canada, with mines located in Africa, Russia, and South America; due to the shaky political environment in those areas, they were looking for more stable operations in the United States and felt Ely, Nevada was the best place. He explained they own half of Bald Mountain, and then they were joined with Kinross and Barrick mines, so now all of that mine is under their umbrella. The mine life is expected to be 7 years but their potential for reserves is very significant, he continued, and it comprises a huge area, which is why it was purchased. Engineer Dixon continued to present, noting that the permitting process for the mine has been extensive; the people operating the mine will be locals, he assured the Board. Their plan of operations was submitted to the BLM in October 2011, the NEPA process took place, and now they are moving forward with the Redbird property, per BLM decisions. The sage grouse mitigation debt obligation mitigation was completed for Bald Mountain; the Notice of Availability is currently at the State level, and it is expected by late May the EIS will be available. It will be sent on to Washington, D.C. and then by the end of June a Record of Decision is expected, which would result in another 10 years of mine life. Their original proposal called for 20 years; they see a great opportunity for Kinross as Bald Mountain is a core asset for the company. He added that our community will be seeing much of their presence here and in the Eureka area. Chairman Gary Perea thanked them for presenting to PLUAC's meeting last night. Manager Burggraff advised that if another pit is approved for them, that would allow for 25 more jobs as well by mid-summer. Commissioner Richard Howe wished to make them aware of our local vendors, who haven't been utilized by some of the new startup companies, and that we could be of great benefit to the mine. He would like to see them give the opportunity for that to our local businesses, perhaps being able to at least submit bids on whatever the mine may be looking for. Manager Burggraff noted this had been brought up during the PLUAC meeting, and he advised at this stage they don't even have a Purchasing Manager on staff. Engineer Dixon noted that their interests are in the local communities. The Board thanked them for their presentation.

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

There were none.

ADVISORY BOARDS

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL TO PROCURE A CONSULTING HYDROGEOLOGIST TO ASSIST THE WPC WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN UPDATING THE 2006 WHITE PINE COUNTY WATER PLAN

Ms. Angela Martin and Mr. Bill Butts, of the Water Advisory Committee, presented this to the Board. Ms. Martin advised the Water Resource Plan for White Pine County was last evaluated and updated in 2006. At that time, there was a one-time allocation of funds for rural planning efforts that could be tapped into to pay for it, it was noted. She continued that the plan is very comprehensive; it evaluates current water usage, availability, and projected use; it was intended to identify issues based on long-range plans. The Water Advisory Committee feels the County lacks the resources to do justice to the plan, and are asking the Board to consider funding for the development of the plan. She continued that while a

may not even be necessary, and that perhaps a graduate student could accomplish the task, a knowledgeable person should be given an opportunity to work on this important plan. Chairman Gary Perea noted that whenever there are water applications to be considered, the State Water Engineer falls back on the County's water plan in making his decision. We need to have the most accurate data possible to assist the Engineer with his decisions; still, he continued, we are under budget constraints. While this couldn't be approved today, he felt we need to start the process of looking for grant funding to cover the water plan. Ms. Martin indicated that CDBG grants don't cover planning; Sr. Management Assistant Elaine Blackham advised she had spent the past 3 days on phone calls regarding this. Back in 2006 there was \$25,000 available to do the Water Resources Plan as a one-time allocation from the legislature. A plan to take back to the current legislature to allocate more funding for the rural areas is being prepared. She has been seeking funding but "no one likes to fund planning," everyone just wants to fund "on-the-ground" projects. Mr. Bill Butts advised that the County needs to seriously think about having a Natural Resources person on board; hydrologists are expensive, but "someone has to take care of our business and we need to get into it in a big way." He added that we don't have the same EDC staff as before, which was instrumental in preparing the plan; the Board agreed with that. Following some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board not to take action on this today but we could still look for funding. Chairman Perea entertained a motion to direct EDC staff to work towards seeking funds; D.A. Wheable felt that they already have the direction to do so, and no motion would be necessary.

At 10:10 a.m., Chairman Gary Perea recessed the Commission meeting for a break. The meeting was reconvened at 10:24 a.m.

SOCIAL SERVICES:

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL TO APPROVE SUBMITTAL OF THE 2017 NEVADA AGING & DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION, SECOND YEAR NON-COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000 WITH A MATCH OF \$3,000 – MATCH WILL COME FROM SOCIAL SERVICES – THIS GRANT IS TO ASSIST IN FUNDING FOR THE OPERATION OF THE ELY BUS

Social Services Director Bunny Hill advised that the Nv. Aging & Disability Services Division and NDOT are governed by different fiscal dates; this is under the State, running from June 1st-July 30th, but it still helps the Federal grant, as she explained. Following brief discussion, Chairman Gary Perea entertained a motion to approve this submittal. Commissioner Richard Howe made a motion to approve submittal of the 2017 Nv. Aging & Disability Services Division, second year non-competitive grant application in the amount of \$20,000 with a match of \$3,000, with the match coming from Social Services, to assist in funding for operations of the Ely Bus. Commissioner Mike Coster seconded. Commissioner Coster wished to have it confirmed that the match is in the Social Services budget; Director Hill confirmed this. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF A \$9,000 GRANT FROM THE STATE OF NEVADA, DEPT. OF BUSINESS & INDUSTRY, ACCOUNT FOR LOW-INCOME HOUSING, WELFARE SET-ASIDE FUNDS – NO MATCH REQUIRED

Director Hill advised that she didn't have to submit a written application for this grant; she received a phone call and was asked if she would like to have this, and she replied in the affirmative. Subsequently this grant award was offered and she put it on today's agenda for the Board's acceptance. Chairman Gary Perea entertained a motion to accept this grant as requested. Commissioner Mike Coster made a motion to accept the \$9,000 grant from the State of Nevada Dept. of Business & Industry account for low-income housing, Welfare Set-Aside funds, with no match required. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried.

GOLF COURSE:

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL OF RATE INCREASES AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW FEES AS PROPOSED

Golf Professional Randy Long noted that a new Golf Course Advisory Board had been formed last Fall. With the new 2016 season approaching, there will be new increases which could bring from \$14-15,000 more into the Golf Course budget. In reply to a query from Chairman Perea, he advised he had called other golf courses around the State for comparable fees, and these are within range. He also explained about the \$10.00 Trail Fee; people are circumventing the rentals of the Golf Course carts and using others, so this fee would cover the entire season. It was noted that many courses, such as in Delta, Utah, charge a fee of \$100. Commissioner Richard Howe informed the Board that he is on the Golf Course Advisory Board and he voted against the \$10 fee. The trail fee is to pay for the cart for those other people, the ones who come in to use the cart; he isn't in favor of that. Members have paid trail fees, cart shed fees, etc.; he feels that if the friend of a member comes in to use the cart, the fee wouldn't generate that much revenue. While he personally doesn't loan his own cart out to other people, he didn't feel it would be good to have that additional fee. Chairman Perea explained that the fee goes to the maintenance and improvements of the cart trails. Commissioner Howe noted this had been started a few years ago, when the Golf Advisory Board had recommended it, and while it was their decision he didn't agree with it then. Following brief discussion, Commissioner Mike Coster made a motion to approve the rate increases and implementation of new fees as proposed. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Commissioner Coster wanted to know the difference between the \$175 cart fee and the \$100 unlimited use for non-cart owners. Professional Long explained the \$175 cart fee is an annual rate. If you want your cart to be used by other players, there would either be a \$10 daily fee charged or the \$100 annual unlimited use for non-cart owners would apply. Professional Long asked if the Board was agreeable to the creation of the Young Adult Pass; the intent is to keep the High School kids playing, at lesser rates. There was a brief discussion regarding expiration dates, after which District Attorney Mike Wheable felt it was fine to leave those in as presented. Motion carried.

FIRE DISTRICT:

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL – EMS/FIRE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT WITH LINCOLN COUNTY

WPC Fire District Chief Brett Waters explained this is the exact document from the prior meeting, but this will cover the EMS side for the County and is being brought forward here for the Commission's approval. Commissioner Mike Coster made a motion that the County Commission adopt the EMS/Fire Mutual Aid Agreement with Lincoln County as presented. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried.

AIRPORT:

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL TO REPLACE EMERGENCY GENERATOR AT THE AIRPORT AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$77,000

Airport Manager Steve Stork advised of the bad news that the Airport Emergency Generator has failed. He explained it's 1950s vintage, and the electrical portion had finally failed. He added that the generator used vacuum tubes. Since the County surrendered the Part 139 Certification at the Airport, the emergency generator is no longer mandated. However, in reply to a query as to if it would be required, Manager Stork explained a scenario which posed great risk; "If you're the pilot or the patient on a Life Flight in an emergency.....you only need it when you really need it." Commissioner Carol McKenzie asked about a smaller generator; Manager Stork advised he had looked into that possibility. That would require LED lights, and along with those we'd need heaters on the light switches due to freezing temperatures, and the end cost would be roughly the same as a new generator. He felt \$77,000 would be

a rough estimate for a new generator. Facility Maintenance Superintendent Bill Calderwood pointed out that generator doesn't even handle the full load at the EOC; the drop in power from the route the power would have to take, would be phenomenal. Manager Stork added that he had been told that White Pine County is getting more than its share of AIP funding, so we shouldn't even request this. Commissioner McKenzie commented that if the power went out, it could be a matter of life and death. She asked how many times has the emergency generator really been needed? Chairman Perea also asked about the possibility of a mobile unit. Manager Stork noted this generator is tied into the grid which supplies power to the runways, etc. He hasn't discussed this matter with MedFlight yet, in reply to a query from District Attorney Mike Wheable. D.A. Wheable felt MedFlight might be willing to split some of the cost for the generator. Commissioner Coster noted that even if we were to request an AIP grant for this, he felt we should seriously look at other alternatives, such as having a drive-up plug arrangement or even that a generator might be available from the National Guard. He continued that nothing in his experience would make it necessary to have \$77,000 for this, in the existing range of priorities. He would rather see us work on upping our snow-clearing priority instead, noting that if you're the person being life-flighted in or out and are told the nearest airport is Elko or somewhere else, due to being unable to land or take off because of snow on the runways. Manager Stork recommended the County not spend replacement money at this time, but "it is a piece of infrastructure that's no longer functioning." Commissioner Richard Howe left the meeting at 10:46 a.m. Superintendent Calderwood offered the idea that we could look at the option of giving the generator a manual start; while it wouldn't be as effective, we could perhaps make it run during an emergency. He was thinking of this in conjunction with our Code Red system. There followed some discussion, during which Chairman Perea felt we could certainly look into other options. It was felt this item could come back on another agenda. Commissioner Richard Howe returned at 10:49 a.m.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL TO RECRUIT AND FILL AN EQUIPMENT OPERATOR SR. POSITION THAT BECAME VACANT ON MARCH 1, 2016 BY AN EQUIPMENT OPERATOR, GRADE 119, STEP 1

Human Resources Director Kathy Ricci advised we will be bringing this person in at a lower rate. In reply to a query from Chairman Gary Perea, Road Maintenance Superintendent Bill Miller noted that the 90 days will put them behind in schedule. Director Ricci noted that the savings would be from a Sr. Equipment Operator of \$55,489.53 down to a regular Operator of \$45,044.58. Also, the Sr. Operator was a Grade 127 and this position will be coming in at Grade 119. Commissioner Carol McKenzie asked how long it would take if the Board approve this today; Director Ricci noted with the required process it would probably be mid-April or May 1st before the operator could be on board. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to recruit and fill the Equipment Operator Sr. position that became vacant on March 1, 2016 by an Equipment Operator, Grade 119, Step 1. Commissioner Carol McKenzie seconded. Motion carried.

FINANCE:

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL OF MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR JANUARY 2016

Finance Director Elizabeth Frances advised there is nothing outstanding or major to report. She noted that as the economy is fluctuating, our revenues and returns on investments, interests, etc. are showing evidence of how the market is recovering slightly. She felt the budget is right on target. Commissioner Laurie Carson noted that we have two mitigation funds, one for when the mines close and the other for if a catastrophe should occur, specifically fire. She asked what interest might we be getting on those; WPC Treasurer Catherine Bakaric advised that she could get those figures for the Board, she didn't know what the current rate is without researching that. She explained that the \$1 million fund in the catastrophic

account is liquid, because if we have a fire we want to be able to use it right away. Because it's "liquid," however, doesn't make as much money. The \$8 million in the other account isn't all in one place, it's invested in CDs; she noted we always get interest and principal there. She continued that it's spread out so while some items might mature next week, others could mature 5 years from now. Treasurer Bakaric felt the "laddering approach" is the best way we can go with our funds. She reiterated that the \$1 million liquid funds are something we can draw upon whenever we might need it. In reply to a query from Commissioner Carson, Treasurer Bakaric stated she would research the NRS pertaining to putting large amounts of monies into a CD, and if certain funds must stay put.

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL OF TWO YEAR INTRASTATE INTERLOCAL CONTRACT WITH STATE OF NEVADA, DEPT. OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, AGING & DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION FOR SUPPORT SERVICES AND SERVICE COORDINATION FOR COUNTY RESIDENTS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Director Frances advised she can answer any questions the Board may have on this contract; there were none. Chairman Gary Perea entertained a motion to approve this as requested. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to approve the two-year intrastate interlocal contract with the State of Nevada, Dept. of Health & Human Services, Aging & Disability Services Division for support services and service coordination for County residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Commissioner Carol McKenzie seconded. Motion carried.

At this point Chairman Gary Perea reopened the agenda item pertaining to the monthly reports.

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL OF MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR JANUARY 2016

Chairman Gary Perea entertained a motion to approve this. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to approve the monthly financial reports for January 2016. Commissioner Carol McKenzie seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2016-04 TO UTILIZE UP TO \$19,000 OF CONTINGENCY TO COVER EXPERT WITNESS AS ORDERED BY DISTRICT COURT JUDGE AND SNOW REMOVAL NEEDS AT COUNTY AIRPORT

Director Frances clarified that the full request from the contingency fund wouldn't be to cover the expert witness fee; the District Court Judge had estimated that it would cost an additional \$15,000, and the remaining \$4,000 would be to cover the snow removal needs at the Airport. Commissioner Carol McKenzie would like to see each of the monetary items presented separately, for clarity. Director Frances agreed, and she will be separating the numbers as requested so there will be more Resolutions in the future. There followed some discussion of language corrections by Commissioner Coster and District Attorney Mike Wheable for the current Resolution. Commissioner Mike Coster made a motion to adopt Resolution 2016-04 to utilize up to \$19,000 of contingency to cover expert witness costs and snow removal needs at the County Airport as presented. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Commissioner Coster clarified that the breakdown will be \$15,000 to Judicial related costs, and \$4,000 to Airport Facility and Maintenance. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL OF THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR TEMPORARY EMS SERVICES FOR A MONTHLY PAYMENT OF \$3,000 FROM WHITE PINE COUNTY TO THE CITY OF ELY AND OTHER CONDITIONS SPECIFIED IN THE AGREEMENT INCLUDED AS BACKUP MATERIALS

Director Frances indicated this agenda item was the same as what was presented during the Fire Commission meeting. Chairman Gary Perea noted there had been lots of discussion regarding this

during that time, and if there were any additional comments or questions; there were none. Chairman Gary Perea entertained a motion to approve this as requested. Commissioner Mike Coster made a motion to approve the interlocal agreement for temporary EMS services for a monthly payment of \$3,000 from White Pine County to the City of Ely and other conditions specified in the agreement included as backup materials. Commissioner Richard Howe seconded. Motion carried 4:1, with Commissioner Laurie Carson voting in opposition.

Gary Perea, Chairman
Carol O. McKenzie, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Laurie L. Carson
Commissioner Richard Howe
Commissioner Mike Coster
Nichole Baldwin, Ex-officio Clerk of the Board

White Pine County
Board of County Commissioners

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Resolution Number 2016-04

Resolution to Utilize Up To \$19,000 of Contingency to Cover Expert Witness Costs of \$15,000 and Snow Removal Needs at County Airport of \$4,000

Whereas, the District Court Judge informed the County Finance Director that he had authorized an expert witness for a murder trial requiring an additional \$15,000 to be added to the Judicial Related Costs Witness Fees account; and

Whereas, due to the unusually heavy snowfall this year the airport will require additional support estimated in the amount of \$4,000 in order to cover the costs of snow removal; and

Whereas, the current available amount in the contingency account is \$65,089 which is sufficient to cover these requests;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that White Pine County shall utilize \$19,000 of Contingency (001-600-54101-000) and increase account 001-207-52708-000 (Judicial Related Cost-Witness Fees) by \$15,000, and 001-420-52210-000 (Airport Facility Maintenance & Repair) by \$4,000.

It Is Further Resolved that the Clerk of the Board shall forward the necessary documents to the Department of Taxation, State of Nevada.

Passed, adopted and approved the 9th day of March, 2016.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Absent: 0

Gary Perea, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

Nichole Baldwin, Clerk of the Board

ADVISORY BOARDS

DISCUSSION ONLY: ANNUAL EVALUATIONS SUBMITTED BY ADVISORY BOARDS AND TOWN COUNCILS PER THE ADVISORY BOARD STANDARDS

WPC Clerk Nichole Baldwin cited the information provided in the Commission packets, and advised she had nothing to add at this time. Commissioner Carol McKenzie noted Lund got their mail late, and didn't receive theirs until last night's meeting. She added Lund Town Council will be sending their annual evaluation in shortly. Chairman Gary Perea asked that letters thanking those boards that responded should be sent, and requested Clerk Baldwin to send those. Commissioner Laurie Carson advised that Ruth and McGill Town Councils had commented in their responses that there are buildings in disrepair, and "they feel they are being stonewalled regardless of what they do." District Attorney Mike Wheable noted that he had sent the McGill Town Council a letter pertaining to some buildings they had concerns about, advising them that they don't own some of the buildings they thought they did. Generally it was felt the towns thought this was a good exercise, a worthwhile effort. Chairman Perea

asked if all the advisory boards could be sent copies of all the evaluations that had been done; Clerk Baldwin advised that would cost more money, but she could do that. During the discussion, Commissioner Mike Coster wanted to have those evaluations posted on the website; Commissioner Laurie Carson agreed that would save on paper, postage, etc.

CONSENT AGENDA: TO RATIFY CORRESPONDENCE, APPROVE PAYROLL FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS, APPROVE HR TRANSMITTAL FOR PAYROLL CHANGES, AND 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.

ITEMS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

COMMISSION:

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL OF COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR THE CREATION OF NEVADAWORKS – COMMISSIONER RICHARD HOWE

Commissioner Richard Howe advised that White Pine County is one of 13 counties, plus Carson City, which comprises NevadaWorks. He continued that each County needs to approve the recommendation by NevadaWorks that we accept the changes to the wording, which he noted were minor in the agreement. He added that it is still an elected official's board, with 1 representative from each county; they meet in February, June, and October to review all their awards, which he explained. Commissioner Laurie Carson asked about having a local board; District Attorney Mike Wheable didn't think we were required to have a local board, and noted this is common in other states as well. Sr. Management Assistant Elaine Blackham clarified that the local board at one time consisted of the EDC, the JOIN Employment Office, and a mine representative; while the local NevadaWorks board existed, it was never really active, and they only held a couple of meetings. Following further discussion, Chairman Gary Perea entertained a motion to approve this as requested. Commissioner Richard Howe made a motion to approve the cooperative agreement for the creation of NevadaWorks. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/UPDATE: BRIEF OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE – COMMISSIONER LAURIE CARSON

Commissioner Laurie Carson reported that this was the first time there was so much representation from Nevada; she noted there were 10 counties represented, with 16 representatives from Nevada. She noted it was a really good north/south representation. She cited the handout "Nevada Counties Matter" provided in the Commission packets, and proceeded to briefly review the items. She reported PILT was discussed at length; generational poverty in rural communities; SRS; educational issues, such as that it was found 55% of High School students need more education, and that nutrition plays a large part of needs in rural counties; and rural broadband needs. She added unfunded mandates had also been addressed, along with discussion of efforts to preserve county revenues in connection with those. The Board thanked her for this report.

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL OF COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR THE CREATION OF NEVADAWORKS – COMMISSIONER RICHARD HOWE

District Attorney Mike Wheable opened this agenda item again briefly to note that under paragraph 5 in the NevadaWorks agreement, members from the Economic Diversification Council, businesses, etc. are taken together to serve on the WIP Board. The WIP board is put together by the NevadaWorks board, it was clarified.

DISCUSSION ONLY OF ATV OPERATION IN WHITE PINE COUNTY (OUTSIDE OF ELY CITY LIMITS) – DISCUSSION OF “LARGE ATV” (2- TO 4-SEAT) AS LICENSED UNDER NRS 490.105 – RESULTS TO DATE – CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE COUNTY ORDINANCE TO ALLOW LIMITED SINGLE SEAT ATV OPERATION ON COUNTY ROADS AS PERMISSIBLE UNDER NRS 490.090 AND 490.100 – DISCUSSION OF LIMITATION OF AGE, LICENSING, AND AREAS – COMMISSIONER MIKE COSTER

Commissioner Mike Coster noted that a former Commission had dealt with this a couple of years ago, but no distinction had been made between large and small ATVs. Legislation has been passed requiring licensing of the large ATVs, including insurance; “large” meaning a 4-seat capacity, or 2 seats with a truck bed. This large ATV program is run by the State, as he explained to the Board. The Sheriff’s Dept. has an enclosed trailer, and they use an ATV on patrols. WPC Sheriff Dan Watts noted the \$25 renewal fee is still enforced. Commissioner Coster advised he’s looking to draft an ordinance similar to that of Eureka County, which permits single seat ATVs to use County roads, but not for transport to and from the Post Office, for example; there’s a 2- mile limit involved. He added this ordinance wouldn’t affect the City, since they have their own jurisdiction. A 30-day report sample was taken by the Sheriff’s Dept. regarding the ATVs, of which there were 6 dispatch reports, one of which was a log report; 2 instances where the ATV couldn’t be located; 1 was a juvenile; and there were no citations issued, no vehicle accidents, and no property damages. There were only noise/nuisance/dust complaints, and most of those were within the City limits. Commissioner Coster felt that if we step forward and craft an Ordinance addressing those concerns, the City might follow our example. Following a lengthy discussion of possible concerns that could be included in the Ordinance, District Attorney Mike Wheable advised his concern is the designation of which roads would be allowed for such usage. Road Maintenance Superintendent Bill Miller advised the roads designated would be standard roads, under which classification there are both general and minor roads; and non-standard roads, where ATVs are travelling right now. In reply to a query from D.A. Wheable, Commissioner Coster advised that this Ordinance can’t regulate the large ATVs, just the single seaters, and it would be to bring those under the County’s jurisdiction. It was the general consensus it would be agreeable to draft the ordinance. WPC Sheriff Dan Watts cautioned that we might end up having to post all the roads the ATVs can’t ride on, so the language would need to be mindful of that.

CLERK:

DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL OF LANGUAGE FOR 2016 BALLOT QUESTIONS AS THEY RELATE TO POTENTIAL INCREASES IN SALES TAX, MOTOR VEHICLE FUEL TAX, AND SPECIAL FUEL TAX

WPC Clerk Nichole Baldwin provided a handout, noting NACO had just sent their ballot question language to her this morning. It was presented to her that they were advisory questions asking permission from the voters to put things into action. Commissioner Laurie Carson noted this is just a “boilerplate” that went out to all the counties from NACO, in order to give the counties something to work with. Commissioner Richard Howe left the meeting at 11:54 a.m. District Attorney Mike Wheable asked if this needs to be approved today, as he is wanting to review the NRS. Chairman Gary Perea felt we should strike the “advisory only” and just have “shall the Board of County Commissioners” on both. Clerk Baldwin noted this language was from the provided boilerplate; Chairman Perea noted this can’t be approved without obtaining approval from the residents; Commissioner Carson felt it isn’t mandated one way or the other. Commissioner Richard Howe returned at 11:56 a.m. Commissioner Carson continued that it’s per AB191, and she didn’t know if we could change it. D.A. Wheable will review the NRS governing this and the Board will consider this later on in the agenda.

DISCUSSION/UPDATE ON TRANSITION OF COMMISSION DUTIES FROM THE EDC TO THE CLERK'S OFFICE

Chairman Gary Perea felt this is going well, and although there are some issues generally we're doing a good job. He would hesitate to add more duties at this time, given it's election season and the Clerk's Office already has a full plate with the ballot questions as well. He would like to leave it up to the discretion of the Clerk and her staff. WPC Clerk Nichole Baldwin felt up to this point all is going well, and while a couple of things haven't been transferred over yet, such as the mail, it's working well the way it is. Chairman Perea would like to see it continue. Commissioner Carol McKenzie agreed with this, at least until after the elections, as this is a very busy year for Clerk Baldwin. Clerk Baldwin agreed with her assessment. Commissioner McKenzie continued that if Clerk Baldwin has to be gone, having the EDC office involved so they can assist if need be, would be a good idea. Commissioner Richard Howe has a plan, he stated, and that does not include the EDC, it goes along with what the Strategic Plan says. He spoke of a potential retirement, and a transfer; he felt moving the EDC duties under the office of the Treasurer would open up the possibility of moving the Finance Dept. over to the vacant EDC office, thus giving the Recorder's office more space. He is asking the Board to at least hear his opinions; his plan would be in line with the budget process. Commissioner Howe continued that a big part of our debt would be eliminated, by saving \$220,000 from the EDC office and that could offset the cost of hiring a new attorney. One EDC staff member might be gone at the end of this fiscal year, and we could then start the new fiscal year with new positions and offices in place. He emphasized that the EDC would not be closed, but rather a new avenue to better utilize office space would take place and also reduce the budget. He continued that we would have 3 months to do this; one EDC person would retire, and the other EDC person would move over there (pointing to the Clerk) and we would keep the County going. Chairman Gary Perea advised we're going off the agenda on this; he has talked with Commissioner Mike Coster about some agenda items that didn't make it to this agenda, but on the next agenda we could have a discussion to allow for Commissioner Howe's ideas prior to the budget hearings, as well as receiving ideas from others. He added that having a Natural Resources person located in the EDC office would also be something to think about. Commissioner Laurie Carson advised this agenda item just had to do with the duties. Commissioner Howe continued that a large part of what the EDC office performs describes NON-economic development activity. He feels we are budgeting for what is largely high-level and necessary skills support for the Commission, but it's being improperly categorized, and he will bring a protest about this to Carson City if needed. We have a big budget problem to fix and we aren't addressing it. We started out with \$643,000 to cut and we aspired to reduce that down to \$400,000 but now it's back to roughly where it began; nothing has changed since the budget was submitted to the Nv. Dept. of Taxation in May 2015. Chairman Perea felt we need to have this discussion under another agenda item, not the one we are currently addressing. Commissioner Mike Coster advised the paperwork is moving well through the Clerk's office, she's comfortable with it, and he doesn't feel we should vote for something and then not do it. He also felt it wasn't legal to state something we aren't going to do anymore, when this is a Discussion/Update agenda item. Chairman Perea recalled the Board voted to move the agendas to the Clerk's office last December; Commissioner Coster thought ALL the Commission assignments and subordinate boards would be moved to the Clerk's office. Chairman Perea added that basically in December, the EDC office was to remain open, and that he didn't understand Commissioner Coster's point at that time. D.A. Wheable offered that the Chairman can remove and place items on the agenda, per NRS. The body can meet and decide which can be pulled or not pulled. He added that you can also table items when the meetings are initially opened. Discussion continued until D.A. Wheable advised some of this could be put onto the next agenda for discussion and possible action. Sr. Management Assistant Elaine Blackham advised that it appears a change of address form has been sent out changing the Commission's address from the EDC office to 801 Clark Street, and now they are getting very little mail for the Board at the EDC office.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- Commissioner Mike Coster suggested eliminating the engraved Commissioner letterhead and just use templates; he also added that he didn't know about the address being changed to 801 Clark Street.
- The hiring delay process procedure will be brought back.
- District Attorney Mike Wheable will work with WPC Clerk Nichole Baldwin to craft language for the fuel tax question on the ballot.
- Approval/adoption of the ballot question language and advertising.
- It was noted neither D.A. Wheable nor Finance Director Elizabeth Frances will be here for the March 23rd Commission meeting. However, per NRS he is required to be present unless there is court in session. There was a question of if the Board could/could not excuse him from attendance; Commissioner Laurie Carson advised there were many times in the past when the District Attorney hadn't been present for Commission meetings. This will be placed on the next agenda.
- Commissioner Mike Coster felt another committee should be utilized to let them know what we will be doing with the money gained by the special taxes on the ballot. Chairman Gary Perea felt that the committee in place who are working on the pros/cons of the ballot questions would be central to that.

PUBLIC COMMENT

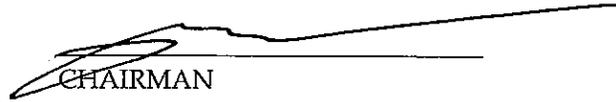
Ely Fire Chief Ross Rivera wished to address the concern of negatively speaking of the City of Ely with respect to Facebook issues. He asked if the Board had proof that even happened? Chairman Gary Perea explained that he had meant the general rumors that were circulating regarding the County speaking negatively of the City. Chief Rivera recalled that it pertained to a couple of Commissioners; Chairman Perea responded that was his point in bringing up the matter, that it was based on rumors. He did note that the Mayor of Ely had stated the County can't balance its own budget, while in fact we've spent time helping the City to balance their budget. He added that the negative comments had come from County as well as City residents; either way, Chairman Perea advised we need to deal with those prior to moving forward with an agreement or mutual aid. Chief Rivera stated that he wants proof of the Facebook issue. Also, he's heard conversation alluding to his being the reason we can't get better Fire District consolidation, etc. Commissioner Laurie Carson stated that if anyone wants to know, they can talk to her, or they can talk to WPC Fire District Chief Brett Waters; direct communication is important. Chief Rivera continued that he feels it's a mistake for us to spend \$48,000 for a study right now, and that we need to get closer to a proper direction for both entities prior to initiating a study. In his opinion, this Board needs to make that decision and not hire someone else to do it for them. There was further discussion, during which Commissioner Mike Coster agreed communication always helps, and he urged that the City/County have a corporate sense of getting the job done together.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Gary Perea adjourned the meeting at 12:46 p.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF WHITE PINE
STATE OF NEVADA

BY:


CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:


WPC CLERK OF THE BOARD
