

IN A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY COMMISSION BUDGET WORKSHOP  
HELD ON APRIL 6, 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

Martha Rivera Sindelar, WPC Recorder  
Kathy Ricci, Human Resources Director  
Anastacia Wilkin, Sheriff's Dept.  
Catherine Bakaric, WPC Treasurer  
Dan Watts, WPC Sheriff  
Mike Wheable, District Attorney  
Capt. Scott Henriod, Sheriff's Dept.  
Randy Long, WPC Golf Professional  
Sgt. Jaime Swetich, Sheriff's Dept.  
Chris Ricci, Sr. Center Program Supervisor  
Bill Miller, Road Maintenance Superintd't.  
Bill Calderwood, Facility Maint. Superintd't.  
Jennifer Rivera, Sr. Mgmt. Assis't. Public Health  
Lori Romero, Library/Senior Center Director  
Bunny Hill, Social Services Director  
Lynnette Gust, Juvenile Probation Officer  
Megan Pekuri, Juvenile Probation Office Mgr.

Also Present

Geri Wopschall  
John Lampros  
Ross Johnson, Ely Times  
George Chachas  
  
Burton Hilton, WPC Assessor  
Brett Waters, WPC Fire District Chief  
Chance Jensen, Sheriff's Dept.  
Chris Brewer, Sheriff's Dept.  
Steve Stork, Airport Manager  
Steve Dobrescu, District Court Judge  
Megan Brown, WPC Aquatics Facilities Director  
Elaine Blackham, Sr. Management Assistant  
Elizabeth Frances, Finance Director

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Chairman Gary Perea called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m. Commissioner Carol McKenzie led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

WPC Golf Professional Randy Long cited the reduction list suggested by Commissioner Richard Howe in a handout that was provided at yesterday's Department Head meeting. He feels singled out; he took it personally that he was slated for a 10% salary reduction. He would like to think that he's been here long enough to be a part of this community, and that he's earned the right to be here.

Mr. George Chachas cited the County's severe financial hardship that occurred in 2005 when the Nv. Dept. of Taxation came in, and advised the Commission needs to start making cuts now. He added that if we get in the same position so that happens again, the Board members "all need to resign." He continued that the County has to stop coming after the taxpayer; he noted that 60% of his Social Security check already goes towards property taxes, and that has to stop. The downtown area is suffering because no one can afford to keep their businesses there; he added the Tourism & Recreation Board needs to do their part, and bring in monies instead of spending it. Mr. Chachas advised that NRS 354 says you can't

expend any more than what you make. He's against a \$50,000 feasibility study that's not going anywhere, there's been no real effort to consolidate with the City, and the Board is still going forward with the study even knowing that the other side isn't going to cooperate. He also noted the Building Inspector already gets his full salary from the City, plus another \$29,000 from the County; he felt that's an insult to the taxpayer and to the County employees.

**Richard Howe's Suggestions for Reductions**  
Updated Following Department Head Meeting

General Fund	Item	Savings	
	HR-10% Travel	\$ 150	
	HR-10% Office Supplies	\$ 85	
	HR-reduce salary	\$ 3,000	
	IT-Eliminate BCT & hire IT engineer	\$ 25,241	Leaves in BCT disaster recovery
	Sheriff-Reduce one position	\$ 105,572	Estimated average
	Fire-Equipment or Positions	\$ 100,000	Already calculated in revised numbers
	Clerk-1/2 Position	\$ 32,175	
	Recorder/Treasurer-already combined jobs	\$ -	
	Public Health Nurse-1/2 time position	\$ 36,993	
	DA-contract Public Guardian position	\$ 22,385	Assumes contract at \$20,000
	Justice Court-1/2 position	\$ 33,508	
	Juvenile Probation-1/2 position	\$ 27,335	Leaves 1/2 time position
	Maintenance-1/2 position-pending retirement	\$ 49,723	Already calculated in initial budget
	Library-1 position	\$ 22,803	Eliminated a 1/2 time position
	Airport-possible agreement with NDOT	\$ 86,704	Eliminated entire department
	EDC-reduce 80 hours to PT under Treasurer	\$ 103,257	Added 30 hours/week @123-1 left \$5,000 for travel/supplies/postage
	Natural Resources-no new hire	\$ -	Nothing currently budgeted
	Combine 1/2 positions in Maintenance/Finance	\$ -	Combines to 1/2 times into 1 full time
	Assessor-1/2 time position	\$ 32,578	
		<u>\$ 681,509</u>	
	<b>Health Insurance All Funds</b>		
	Employees pay for 10% of insurance	\$ (64,767)	I am projecting a cost increase based on all employees paying 10% of their health insurance regardless of level of coverage
	<b>Special Revenue Funds</b>		
	Social Services/Sr Center Director-one position	\$ 41,819	
	Roads 1 job	\$ 66,351	
	Roads-no promotions	\$ 13,965	
	Golf Course-10% salary reduction	\$ 5,118	
	Golf Course-eliminate dependent insurance	\$ 11,254	

**FY2017 BUDGET WORKSHOP/DISCUSSION – PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS ON WAYS TO BRING THE BUDGET INTO BALANCE**

Chairman Gary Perea responded to the severe financial situation the County was in back in 2005, noting "that was the hardest decision he's ever made." For the public's information, he stated that we're not even close to that same situation; our current projected fund balance is just over \$5 million. If the Board doesn't make any cuts, the projected revenues would be \$11.7 million and our projected expenditures would be \$12.8 million. Also, if we don't make any cuts next year our projected fund balance would be \$3.9 million. He continued that the County won't make so many cuts that the safety and welfare of our citizens would be at risk; also, we don't want to keep people from coming into the community. While the

Board is making cuts, those are hard decisions, but we're doing this to ensure we don't ever get back into the financial crisis we were in back in 2005. Commissioners Carol McKenzie and Laurie Carson heartily agreed with his statement. Chairman Perea advised that the Board had requested Finance Director Elizabeth Frances to work with the 10% cuts and provide some figures, as well as the Department Heads to cut their budgets.

Finance Director Elizabeth Frances provided a handout correcting some items and explained those to the Board. With the adjustments to the insurance and half-time/full-time employee figures being corrected, she advised the Board still has \$342,456 to cut from the budget in order to get to the target ending fund balance of \$425,000. She reviewed the comments from the Department Head meeting yesterday, and noted those verbal statements were made as a group, not from isolated Dept. Heads. Briefly, they feel they've all worked very hard with the Strategic Planning Committee to reduce their budgets, and the 10% that was requested by the Board was addressed during that process. She continued that the Dept. Heads felt the Commissioners should take action and not place the decision to cut employees onto the Dept. Heads as that would create lower morale issues than already exist. A 10% reduction in overall non-payroll items doesn't allow for reduction of some expenditures such as electricity, for example. Some Dept. Heads have had to go into their payroll to make their 10% cuts. They also felt some revenue recommendations that had been suggested never made it to a Commission agenda and therefore haven't been acted upon; they felt the Board should take those suggestions seriously. She added that one big concern is that the Dept. Heads feel like "last years' budget season never ended," since the Board never came to a decision as to how they would balance the overall budget; also, the delays that occurred getting the franchise fee back into place was also an issue. There was much uncertainty as to whether those who may be affected by the cuts would want to take other County jobs, even if they were available. At this point, Chairman Perea advised the Department Heads may comment and asked them to limit their presentations to 5 minutes. Per a query from Commissioner Mike Coster, Chairman Perea advised that the only thing the Board has agreed to at this point, is the 10% reduction. Commissioner Laurie Carson asked about the Library and EDC cuts, if that was considered part of their 10% Departmental reduction; Finance Director Elizabeth Frances replied in the negative, noting the 10% from no-payroll cuts would be on top of that.

WPC Sheriff Dan Watts advised that it's going to be pretty tough to cut 10% from his budget. Revenues coming in during the last quarter, and submitted to the Treasurer, were \$86,382. He's very proud of his staff, they're doing more with less. He has people out with injuries; one will be absent for probably a year, and people are feeling insecure about their jobs. This 10% cut means services will need to be cut; for example, he won't have the manpower to do the Silver State Classic Challenge, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities and reunions, etc. He will have to cut the non-essentials, and that's what those events are. He cited there have been threats at one of our schools; with 1 Deputy on duty, how will all the schools be covered? Fortunately they were able to track down the source of the threat this time. He praised his deputies for stepping up and doing the work they have to do. He cited their pay scale was already cut 10% a couple of years ago, and here we are doing it again. The deputies didn't even ask for raises last year, because they saw these cuts would be coming around again. They thought of the County first, and held back their request. Sheriff Watts made some comparisons with other small counties for items such as Search & Rescue. Another Sheriff he talked with was upset because their Search & Rescue budget was cut down to \$4,000, and Sheriff Watts had to chuckle because his budget for that is only \$400 this year. He will try very hard to make these additional cuts, because he knows we need to have to make these cuts in the public's best interests. He emphasized that we must remain safety-oriented.

Facility Maintenance Superintendent Bill Calderwood advised that he made those 10% cuts, but due to the way his budget is, he couldn't reach that percent without reducing the hours of his employees. He noted that he could reduce in some areas, be short in those during the year, and then come back to the Board and request additional funds. He also asked that if it comes to having to reduce people in the County, "don't put that on the Department Heads." That would mean he would have to potentially face an employee that will be cut for the sole reason of having a potential cost savings. He maintained that should come from the Commissioners, not the Department Heads; he would appreciate the Board not putting that unpleasant task back on the Department Heads.

Commissioner Richard Howe advised he had suggested many of these potential cuts; he looked at ways to reduce the deficit, not just to get by year-to-year, and he reviewed everything the Strategic Planning Committee had brought forward. He looked at every Department and maintained that Golf Professional Randy Long was wrong, he wasn't the only employee that was looked at in this. He provided a handout to the Board of what was done in North Las Vegas, when the Nv. Dept. of Taxation came in on them recently. He recalled for the Board that we wouldn't have a say on anything, they would just come in and do it. He personally doesn't want to dip into the fund balance for any reason. He addressed every single Department in the County and worked with 10% cuts, reducing positions to half-time, etc. and came up with a potential savings of \$681,509. He provided a list of his recommendations to the Board and reviewed it briefly; there would be 4 jobs that would be cut. He doesn't want to do 10% or even 12% across the board, as he doesn't want the Commission to be in the position of having to address this every single year. So in 2016 we would eliminate 4 jobs and then remain status quo during 2017. He maintained his suggestions are real and honest, and every single Department was "hit", the Golf Course was not singled out. While there are no major pay cuts, he added, they are deep and long lasting, and in the final analysis they are in the best interest of the County for now and in the future.

Commissioner Mike Coster admitted that's quite a list of cuts; the \$681,000 reflected there would mean a turnaround in just one year. He noted that our target is \$425,000; the 2-year turnaround that had been suggested earlier is similar to this. Some of these changes he would have trouble with, but he wanted to know if we're still looking at a 2-year, 3-year, or 6-year turnaround, or looking to have an immediate recovery this year? Commissioner Howe understands a lot of his suggestions will be tweaked, but he wants it fast, and he wants it now. Commissioner Coster felt that in order to manage this, we need to find a way to manage things on the downturn. He feels if we did all of it this year, it wouldn't be the right way to achieve a balanced budget. A \$425,000 could be done in a 3-year turnaround, he felt. Even if we did a 3-year turnaround it would be \$330,000, and it would still be difficult to achieve. He wondered if we would be making it all the more difficult for people who utilize the Library, and who routinely receive police/fire services, as well as our own employees. Commissioner Coster continued that those are among the people we represent, our employees as well as the public. He felt that the \$681,000 recommendations would be unnecessarily brutal on the whole County, and would like to see something less dramatic.

Commissioner Laurie Carson felt that in order to make things more equitable, she would rather go into each Department and reduce by 1 hour per day those working in mandated offices, by staggering their hours to maintain coverage. Those would include the Clerk, Treasurer, Recorder, Assessor, and even some under Maintenance and Janitorial. She would rather do this than cut personnel. Director Frances advised that would include the Finance Office and the Justice of the Peace offices as well, and perhaps even in the Library.

The Board proceeded to comment on Commissioner Howe's list. Commissioner Howe advised that instead of going after individual employees or offices, instituting furloughs, etc., he would rather look at combining and/or eliminating Departments. Commissioner Carson felt that could take a lot of time; he didn't agree, and didn't think that it would. Chairman Perea didn't agree with the list, and noted he wasn't sure where to go from this point. Commissioner Coster felt that the employees were willing to do anything reasonable, such as furloughs, reduction of 1 hour/day, etc. Giving them a 12.5% reduction in pay with no end in sight would be worse for their morale than what we have now; he didn't feel cutting the hours would really work. Commissioner Carson felt perhaps some fixes could be done, such as trying to work on the unfunded mandates and the tax abatements. Commissioner Coster would like to take the approach of reducing the number of positions and consolidating some Departments, sharing support staff, etc. Commissioner Carson pointed out that combining some offices, such as was looked at several years ago with the Clerk/Treasurer, would take some time because it would need to go through legislation; however, the Commission could look at combining non-elected offices. Commissioner Howe cited one combination and one elimination of Departments on his list: To eliminate the EDC office and combine Social Services with the Senior Center. Commissioner Carson was hesitant to consider that; she cited when the Nv. Dept. of Taxation came in they kept the EDC, as it's still one office that can help this County. She continued that she's not willing to lose nearly 20 years of a good relationship with the State; White Pine County is well known because of our work with economic development. There followed some discussion of what had been proposed in the past with respect to EDC, Natural Resources, etc. Commissioner Coster advised that both the District Attorney and Finance Officer had noted something along the lines of significantly diluting the EDC office work.

WPC Clerk Nichole Baldwin presented to the Board where her 10% would come from: Travel from her budget. The Secretary of State has been paying for her travel expenses to assure attendance at some meetings. There has been a huge increase in the Clerk's Office workload; she noted 47% of criminal cases from last year's quota has already been met during this year's first quarter; nearly everything they do now is mandated per NRS and other Supreme Court rules, just so the Board is aware. Commissioner Coster noted that there may be room to cut these budgets, but there's also some relief available, such as looking at splitting positions or removing them.

Chairman Gary Perea felt that we should have \$130,000 more next year coming in from projected ad valorem taxes; Finance Director Elizabeth Frances agreed with that. WPC Assessor Burton Hilton commented that the Board could thank his office for that, which won chuckles from the Board. Commissioner Coster noted we'll be needing that to help get us down to the \$425,000 next year; the question is how can we get to where we need to be now? The ballot questions pertaining to the taxes, plus the amount we will be getting from ad valorem, don't indicate the reality of how far we still need to go. At this point, Director Frances provided an updated figure of \$301,318 that still remains to be cut.

Mr. John Lampros commented to the Board as a citizen and a taxpayer. He's been watching things progress and he feels the Board members are all genuinely good people, especially Commissioner Mike Coster, who's impressed him immensely with his suggestions. But he feels the Board is under so much pressure, it's ridiculous. He continued that if it was up to him, he would make the budget whole by using the ending fund balance. He added the County won't go broke as long as Finance Director Elizabeth Frances is on board, she will watch over us. He added that they could amend the budget before the June deadline, but they need to take the pressure off of the Board and the County employees. He assured the assemblage that the County is not broke; the public thinks they are, though, the people out in the County watch things too, and they see how pressured you are. He stated the Board needs to talk positive, and they aren't doing that. Get it done, then work on cutting where necessary; you have

attrition, you can't just cut in a panic, or, quoting Commissioner Coster, it will come back and bite you. He added that the County has 20 years invested in the EDC, it's extremely important to the County.

Director Frances cited her memo regarding Jail Expansion-Court Security, noting this needs to be addressed. We need to put monies in a budget format for this project, or it won't happen. While this is by no means set in stone, she advised that what the Jail Expansion Committee is saying is it needs to be included in our budget. She proceeded to review the information for the Board.

White Pine County  
Finance Office

# Memo

To: White Pine County Board of County Commissioners  
From: Elizabeth Frances, Finance Director  
CC: File  
Date: 4/6/2016  
Re: Jail Expansion-Court Security



The Jail Expansion/Courthouse Committee is submitting the following information to the County Commission for their consideration related to the FY2017 budget:

1. The jail is providing housing for inmates on average at or over current designed capacity.
2. The courthouse does not meet current national security standards and, pursuant to a US Marshals Report, cannot be made to meet them.
3. The County should no longer postpone addressing these two public safety issues. Therefore, the Committee recommends moving forward with and budgeting for this project in FY2017.
4. The committee believes the following to be the appropriate project scope to properly address the needs of both the court and the jail:
  - a. The existing office space for the Sheriff's Department will be maintained.
  - b. The existing dispatch area will be expanded and upgraded so that communications will be brought up to current state-of-the-art technology.
  - c. New wings will be added to the existing public safety building to provide the necessary inmate housing.
  - d. Existing cells will be utilized for temporary juvenile holding and storage for the Sheriff's Department.
  - e. A small, secure, two-story courthouse will be built adjacent to the public safety building.
  - f. The public safety building and the courthouse will be connected by a secured walkway(s) providing transport of prisoners between the two facilities in a secure manner.
  - g. An expanded parking lot and impound area is also anticipated with this project.
5. The major advantages of this proposal are:
  - a. The utilization of the existing public safety building, jail space, County land and infrastructure related to water and sewer.

- b. The ability to eliminate the associated costs and risks of juvenile transports required for temporary holding (less than 10 days).
  - c. The ability to eliminate the associated costs and risks of jail transports between the public safety building and the courthouse.
  - d. A safe and secure courthouse that can meet national safety standards.
  - e. Elimination of the overcrowding in the county jail and the associated liability.
  - f. Upgraded technology for emergency communications.
6. The estimate for this project is \$20-30 million which can be funded utilizing the following resources:
- a. Existing funding of \$6.5 million as follows:
    - i. \$2.5 million in Capital Improvements (fund 081) already dedicated by the County Commission for the jail expansion project, and
    - ii. \$4 million from SB74 funds (fund 082) which is the estimated ending fund balance for FY2016-these funds are specifically to address public safety and courthouse infrastructure needs.
  - b. Debt service will be required to cover the additional costs. Revenues to service the debt will be provided through:
    - i. Dedication of annual SB74 revenues, and
    - ii. Three to five cents of ad valorem tax redirected from the State Indigent Fund (fund 570).
    - iii. Revenues from the 911 surcharge enacted to provide improved emergency communications which is part of this project through the upgraded dispatch area.
    - iv. Between \$400,000 and \$500,000 from the Justice Court Facility Fees (fund 320) for furnishings in the new courthouse at the completion of the project.
  - c. Other funding sources that will be actively pursued but are not assured include:
    - i. The Nevada State Legislature to assist with \$10 to \$15 million toward the new courthouse due to the maximum-security prison located in White Pine County which is serviced by the District Court.
    - ii. Discussions with the City of Ely to provide funding to house the Municipal Court in the new court facility.
    - iii. Discussions with the Ely Shoshone Tribe for funding toward both the jail and courthouse projects.

Approval of the budget is required in order for commencement of the project and dedication of ad valorem tax to service the associated debt. This is a needed project that the County can no longer afford to put off and it is supported by the District Court, judges and the Sheriff.

Please see the attached documents which include an outline the specifics for the budget, a copy of the US Marshall's Report, the National Court Safety Standards and statistics from the jail related to average number of inmates housed daily.

Director Frances advised that most Courthouses were built during times when security issues weren't as stringent as they are today. She cited a report from the State Fire Marshall, which states there is no way we can bring our current Courthouse up to the security standard it should be. The Courthouse and Jail Expansion projects would be in tandem; the project would cost between \$20-30 million. It would require a debt service; we currently have \$6.5 million; with \$4 million in SB74 funding and Capital Improvements, ad valorem and other taxes, this could be done. She noted Judge Stephen Bishop is willing to dedicate a portion of his Technology Fund towards this project. She encouraged Legislators and Tribal representatives to visit the Courthouse, to make themselves aware of our needs.

District Court Judge Steve Dobrescu noted that the Jail is the bigger priority. We started working on the Courthouse in 1992, and it wasn't until now that we have the potential to fund such a project. He emphasized that the issues the County is dealing with now regarding budgets, employees, etc. would not be impacted by including this. He explained it's a different kind of fund, no one would lose their jobs over it. There's a potential now to put this package together like never before in the past; all the studies have already been done, the State Fire Marshall's report, the entire history of the project, etc., are now in boxes and available to be tapped as resources. The Jail is overcrowded, there's court every day of the week; he's been here 15 years and it's never been this extreme. The drug cartel proponents are being arrested on a regular basis, there are security issues at the schools and the Library; the danger is really out there. He will advocate for this project and see if it can be funded, get bids, etc. and if it's overpriced, shut the door on it; he felt if you can do it, do it, but DON'T do it piecemeal or it won't ever get done. Chairman Gary Perea advised we need to have State money in on this, the State needs to chip in and do it. Judge Dobrescu agrees, and it needs to be set up for the next Legislative session. He added that we had the Supreme Court, the District Judges Association, and a letter from the then-Attorney General Brian Sandoval, dated 2005, in full support of this, plus it passed the Finance Committee and the Senate unanimously. It was hung up in the Ways & Means Committee, although the votes for it were actually on the Assembly floor at the time! Judge Dobrescu felt we should get our house in order, and put together what we can do first.

WPC Sheriff Dan Watts commented that when we looked at this back in 2008 the project costs then were about \$20 million, and now in the short time since it's gone up to \$30 million. The longer we wait, the more it will cost. Chairman Perea agreed we're all on board with this, and we need to get the State on board as well. He added that the BDRs are coming out September 1<sup>st</sup>; perhaps another committee could be done, or we could consider lobbying. District Attorney Mike Wheable felt that the Jail Expansion/Courthouse Committee we have now could work it out. Chairman Perea felt something should be prepared to present to the Legislators and have it ready for the April 23<sup>rd</sup> Commission meeting; the Board agreed that a resolution would be valuable as well.

Chairman Gary Perea recapped that we need to make reductions of \$301,000 in order to get to the \$425,000. \$726,000 is the total required to balance; subtracting Net Proceeds of Minerals for \$100,000, that leaves \$626,000. He can't agree with Commissioner Howe's list at all; we need to do this in steps. He feels we should aim at making another \$100,000 in cuts today; between now and May we could also look at some other cuts. Commissioner Richard Howe reiterated his list, which he pointed out doesn't affect all the County employees; he felt hourly reductions for 12.5% would be putting an unnecessary burden on the employees. Commissioner Laurie Carson noted that this Board had voted to move forward with the 911 enhancements, the County business license, and the franchise fee; also, it's already in the budget to look at the Public Guardian contract. Director Frances noted that there is someone in town who can take care of that task until there's no money left, at which point we would have to pay someone to perform those things. She noted the Public Guardian wasn't included in the budget because of that. She

continued that she left some funds in the BCT on an hourly basis for support, in case the IT Engineer can't fulfill a task. Discussion then centered around requested promotions from Department Heads.

WPC Aquatic Facilities Director Megan Brown provided a handout whereby she had prioritized some items in response to the Board's request. The priority on her list would be a play feature in the wading pool. Commissioner Mike Coster asked if that cost could be brought down; she felt that was possible. Or, she felt perhaps a combination of that feature plus a copy machine, both for less cost. Following brief discussion, it was felt \$50,000 could be included in the budget for the wading pool play feature; the Board is very pleased that the pool "keeps making money."

Chairman Gary Perea felt that for the purposes of this meeting, although everyone wants to get to the \$425,000, which would bring the \$726,000 down to \$626,000, and we could do \$100,000 less at this point, knowing that we would be looking into the other things prior to the budget deadline. Director Frances noted the full-time Mechanic is still in the budget, with their time being split between Fire/Sheriff's Department; it is unknown at this time if that inclusion would result in a cost savings.

There was also some discussion regarding the possible refund of taxes going back to the Mine due to their appeal. Director Frances noted that refund wouldn't come out of the Contingency fund, we just wouldn't be receiving that amount in revenues. WPC Assessor Burton Hilton felt if we held out \$100,000 in anticipation of having to do this, it might be a fair estimate of the share we might have to "reimburse."

Airport Manager Steve Stork advised that he had relayed what the Board had communicated during the last meeting regarding relinquishing the Airport over to NDOT; they will be discussing this and he will report back at a later date.

Director Frances continued that the promotions in the Clerk, Treasurer and Assessor Offices would result in a total of \$18,627 annually if the promotions were approved. So if these, plus the split Mechanic position, were removed that would result in \$227,264 left to cut from the budget. After these were discussed, Chairman Perea felt that we had gotten the amount down to \$652,000 and he's good with that for today. If we reduce the Contingency by \$50,000 to bring it down to \$200,000, we would be within \$177,000 left of the goal to be cut. Director Frances will bring back actual figures next week; she added there would still be time to change it. Chairman Perea wants to see what the Department Heads did to cut their 10%.

#### **DISCUSSION/ACTION/DIRECTION TO THE FINANCE DIRECTOR REGARDING ITEMS HEARD DURING THE BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Finance Director Elizabeth Frances advised she will compile what was done today and include a few items such as \$41,138 for the employee who decided not to retire, the split Mechanic position, etc. She will also send copies to the Department Heads so they will be made aware of the status of the budget as well. Chairman Gary Perea entertained a motion to move forward. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to move forward with what was discussed today, with \$602,264 as utilization of the fund balance based on this tentative budget. Commissioner Carol McKenzie seconded. Chairman Perea would like to reiterate the goal; we still have to get the figures down but he would need to see the cuts we are making, or have been made, and then go from there. Director Frances clarified this is just the tentative budget, which can still be changed. Commissioner Richard Howe felt while he isn't in favor of the fund balance now, he would vote for this just to allow Director Frances to submit a tentative budget. Motion carried 4:1, with Commissioner Mike Coster voting in opposition.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

At 4:51 p.m., Chairman Gary Perea entertained a motion to go into Closed Session. Commissioner Carol McKenzie made a motion to go into Closed Session; Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried. At this time Chairman Perea recessed the meeting to allow for preparing for the Closed Session.

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

The negotiation discussion was held from 5:10 p.m. to 5:42 p.m.

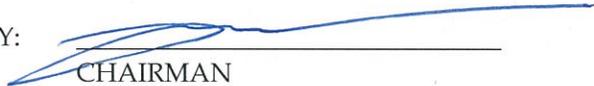
At 5:42 p.m., Chairman Gary Perea closed the Collective Bargaining discussion and reconvened the Fire Commission meeting. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to approve the tentative budgets of the Fire District, the Senior Center, and the Building & Planning Dept. Commissioner Carol McKenzie seconded. Motion carried 4:1 with Commissioner Mike Coster voting in opposition.

**ADJOURNMENT**

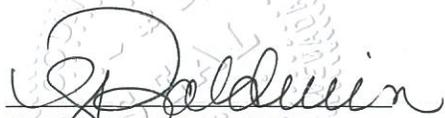
At 5:44 p.m., Chairman Perea adjourned the meeting.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY OF WHITE PINE  
STATE OF NEVADA

BY:

  
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

  
CLERK OF THE BOARD

