

**IN A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY COMMISSION AND FIRE  
COMMISSION HELD ON MAY 16, 2016 AT THE WHITE PINE COUNTY AQUATIC 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

Brett Waters, WPC Fire District Chief  
Mike Wheable, District Attorney  
Elaine Blackham, Sr. Management Assist't.  
Kathy Ricci, Human Resources Director  
Bill Calderwood, Facility Maint. Superintd't.  
Jennifer Farnworth, IT Specialist  
Elizabeth Frances, Finance Director  
Bill Miller, Road Maint. Superintendent  
Megan Brown, Aquatic Facilities Director  
Lori Romero, Library/Sr. Center Director  
Burton Hilton, WPC Assessor  
Catherine Bakaric, WPC Treasurer

Also Present

Shane Bybee  
Ralph McClintock  
Jeff Hyde, Leavitt Group  
Mike Higbee  
Prow Skeen, Hotel Nevada  
Ed Spear, Tourism & Recreation Board  
Ernie Flangas, Tourism & Recreation Board

---

Chairman Gary Perea called the meeting to order at 8:50 a.m. Commissioner Mike Coster led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

**ITEMS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS**

**HUMAN RESOURCES:**

**DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL OF THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH WHITE PINE  
COUNTY AND THE WPC SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION'S COLLECTIVE BARGAINING  
AGREEMENT EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2017**

Human Resources Director Kathy Ricci cited the agreement and noted changes have been made in red; also, the Salary Schedule hadn't been included in the Commission packet. She advised that a 1% increase effective July 1, 2016 and a 1% increase effective January 1, 2017 had been agreed upon. The schedule will be included to reflect the changes as noted; the increase would result in an estimated total of \$43,688.94. Finance Director Elizabeth Frances advised that both sides were bargaining in good faith, and she felt it was a reasonable request from both sides; she indicated there had been no increases last year. Commissioner Laurie Carson had a question regarding when injuries should be entered or recorded, pertaining to Article 19 of the Agreement. Director Frances felt that injuries are supposed to be reported within 24 hours, from the time the injury actually occurred; she will check on this. Director Ricci will take that question to POOL/PACT to see what their requirements are pertaining to that. Following further

discussion, Chairman Gary Perea entertained a motion to proceed as requested. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to approve the tentative agreement with White Pine County and the White Pine County's Sheriff's Association's collective bargaining agreement effective July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. Commissioner Mike Coster seconded. Motion carried.

#### NOTICE OF TIMED AGENDA ITEMS

##### 9:00 A.M. – NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

##### PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD TO HEAR COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON THE TENTATIVE BUDGETS FOR FY 2016-17 FOR WHITE PINE COUNTY, THE TOWNS OF RUTH, LUND AND MCGILL

Chairman Gary Perea asked for comments from the public; there were none. Finance Director Elizabeth Frances provided a series of documents, including a letter from Nv. Dept. of Taxation/s Budget Analyst Susan Lewis declaring the FY2016-17 tentative budgets for White Pine County and the towns of Ruth, Lund and McGill to be in compliance. There were minor changes requested to the town budgets, which Director Frances made, and some larger changes to the White Pine County budget, which she reviewed: Regarding debt service, Director Frances explained we can't have that until it's actually in place. There is \$7 million for a project currently in the budget, and the SB74 funds will include the tax in it. There also needed to be more clarity regarding the ad valorem tax reductions, which she provided for the Nv. Dept. of Taxation. She explained while she reflected it more appropriately in the schedule, that there was no effect to the overall budget. The last change that was made, was an adjustment to the Capital Improvement Fund; she noted some of that will be provided to the towns and the City of Ely, as she explained. The Board discussed changes to the tentative budget that weren't included yet but have been requested, such as to accept the BCT proposal, the health insurance proposal, the Sheriff's Association's bargaining agreement increases, and the reduction to the Seasonal Parks budget. Director Frances assured the Board those will be made prior to the final budget. Chairman Gary Perea again asked for public comment on these budgets; there was none. Chairman Perea read a portion of the FY2017 Tentative Budget Message into the record:

*"The projected ending fund balance in the General Fund is \$12,426,566. This amount includes the \$8 million that is restricted for Net Proceeds Mitigation. These funds are to be used in the event of mine closures that have extreme adverse impact on County revenues. That leaves a projected \$4,426,566 ending fund balance that is not restricted which is a decrease of \$614,367 from the anticipated FY2016 ending fund balance. It is understood that this level of spending in excess of revenues is not sustainable and the County continues to work aggressively to streamline operations, increase efficiency so that operating expenses are not funded out of fund balance."*

There being no further comments or questions regarding this Public Hearing, Chairman Gary Perea closed the Public Hearing.

##### DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL OF FINAL BUDGET FOR FY 2016-17 AS AMENDED FOR:

- (A) WHITE PINE COUNTY
- (B) TOWN OF RUTH
- (C) TOWN OF LUND
- (D) TOWN OF MCGILL

Chairman Gary Perea entertained a motion to approve the White Pine County tentative budget. During the discussion, Chairman Perea noted we have between now and June 30<sup>th</sup> to change some items of concern; one question he had pertained to the EMS fund. Director Frances advised that on Page 29 the EMS fund could go another 2 years at the current rate, leaving an ending fund balance of \$185,000 after next year. Commissioner Laurie Carson would prefer to wait and revisit that during the May 25<sup>th</sup>

Commission meeting, before submitting it as final. Commissioner Richard Howe stated that we have to get our figure down, to do more to get us closer to the \$425,000 we need. Director Frances recommended adopting the budget with final changes and do a formal approval on May 25<sup>th</sup> to get it submitted on schedule, by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Chairman Perea felt the Board should approve this today, then the Nv. Dept. of Taxation would approve the budget and it would be our responsibility to make some of these cuts during the next month. Commissioner Howe reiterated his recommended list of changes; Chairman Perea felt the Board needs more time for consideration, and he would like to have the opportunity and the time to analyze the options. Following a brief interchange between Chairman Perea and Commissioner Howe, Commissioner Carol McKenzie pointed out that we don't have to spend all the money that's in the budget, we can make restrictions to reduce the amount of money we can spend. Director Frances agreed with that; she noted the budget is a living document, which may be changed/amended during the year. She also clarified for the Board that we are above the 25% figure required, which is 25% of the approved expenditures. Commissioner Mike Coster asked what our tentative forecast for the FY2016 deficit would be; Director Frances responded it would be roughly \$670,000, and we are right on target with that. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to approve the tentative budget for White Pine County, FY2016-17. Commissioner Carol McKenzie seconded. Director Frances advised they need to include as amended in their motion; Commissioners Carson and McKenzie amended their motion and second, respectively. Motion carried 3:2, with Commissioner Richard Howe and Mike Coster voting in opposition.

Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to approve the final budget for FY2016-17 for the Town of Ruth as submitted. Commissioner Mike Coster seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Carol McKenzie made a motion to approve the final budget for FY2016-17 for the Town of Lund as submitted. Commissioner Mike Coster seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Mike Coster made a motion to approve the final budget for FY2016-17 for the Town of McGill as presented. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried.

At 9:37 a.m., Chairman Gary Perea recessed the regular Commission meeting and opened the Special Fire Commission meeting. At 10:15 a.m., Fire Commission Chairman Gary Perea adjourned the Special Fire Commission meeting and reconvened the regular Commission meeting.

#### ITEMS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

##### HUMAN RESOURCES:

##### DISCUSSION/ACTION/APPROVAL OF RENEWAL OPTIONS FOR WPC EMPLOYEES HEALTH, DENTAL, VISION AND LIFE INSURANCE PLANS AS PROPOSED BY THE LEAVITT GROUP

Mr. Jeff Hyde, Group Benefits Specialist with the Leavitt Group, introduced himself to the Board. Finance Director Elizabeth Frances noted that the figures provided in the handout are just slightly different from what was provided in the packets, but the employees have reviewed the briefs. Specialist Hyde advised that Ameritus had sent in their final Medical carrier proposal; there was a 22.7% initial increase, but that figure had been negotiated since that was submitted. He provided some claims history, and noted that Ameritus' total premium was \$1.3 million paid over a 12-month period, while Anthem's total premiums were \$1.34 million over the same period. He continued that they also went to United Health Care, Humana, Aetna, Sierra, etc. and most of them declined to provide quotes due to the fact that they didn't think they could get to those rates. The current provider is Anthem, and there were 3 plans offered; the County bases their contributions on the middle plan noted, which is 100% employer pay. Basically, the other providers couldn't match their plans to what Anthem offers; their plans were

indicating to be of lesser value, as he explained. They also didn't include the University of Utah, although Huntsman was included. The insurance committee recommended staying with the Anthem Plan; on the medical HRA, the monthly amount would be reduced from \$85/month to \$50/month.

Specialist Hyde went to the Dental providers next: Ameritus came in with a 24% increase, and there is a utilization of 77% with that carrier. Now they are requesting more, since claims were increased last year, so they dropped the 24% to a 14% increase, with no plan design changes. He added they've been a good carrier for the employees, with minimal complaints. He briefly reviewed the other Dental providers, including Anthem who submitted their proposal as well. He noted that families will be taking a hit with Dental, but listed a couple of options. He felt Anthem would be most comparable to what is offered from Ameritus. Director Frances indicated that some employees have made decisions to go forward with orthodontia; they can't just switch providers on that, and so would lose the \$500.00 that had been planned on with Ameritus. Formerly, there was a \$1,000 deductible for orthodontia, but that has risen to \$1,500 with Anthem. During the discussion it was noted Anthem's increase is 4.2% over Ameritus.

Specialist Hyde addressed the Vision component next: Ameritus came back with a current fee of \$7.56/month and \$8.88/month to renew. The committee is recommending MetLife, which provides the same VSP network the County has now. The rates were slightly different: Eyeglasses frames were allowed \$150 every 2 years, but that will be dropped down to \$130 every 2 years with MetLife.

Following some discussion, Human Resources Director Kathy Ricci advised most employees preferred Plan A. Medical will remain with Anthem; Dental will be with Ameritus; and Vision will be with MetLife, per recommendation of the committee. Commissioner Richard Howe left the meeting briefly.

Specialist Hyde discussed the HRA (Health Reimbursement Account) portion, which rolls over each year; that vendor is Infinisource. He emphasized that even if the employee leaves the County, the HRA goes with them.

Chairman Gary Perea entertained a motion to approve as discussed. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to continue Medical coverage with Anthem, have Dental coverage with Ameritus, Vision with Metlife, and adjust the HRA monthly contribution down to \$50.00/month. Commissioner Carol McKenzie seconded. Chairman Perea asked if there is any way the County could make an arrangement with IHC (Intermountain Health Care); Specialist Hyde noted employees can use the IHC hospitals and clinics, although each State is different, he cautioned. Motion carried 4:0, with Commissioner Richard Howe not being present for the vote.

#### **FINANCE:**

#### **DISCUSSION/ACTION/DIRECTION TO SEND A LETTER TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED NEW PERMANENT REGULATIONS AMENDING NAC 354.660 WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE AMOUNT OF BUDGETED ENDING FUND BALANCE NOT SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATIONS IN CONFORMANCE WITH SB 168 – THE LETTER WILL BE BROUGHT BACK FOR RATIFICATION ON THE MAY 25, 2016 AGENDA**

Finance Director Elizabeth Frances cited backup materials in the Commission packet for this. Commissioner Richard Howe returned to the meeting. Director Frances advised that this regulation is related to the fund balance that is exempt from negotiations; the Board just needs to write a letter supporting this. She feels this is a good safety net for the County in the event of anything adverse occurring; the funds would be there and would not be considered for use during negotiations, the monies couldn't be touched. The Board agreed this would be a good safeguard. Chairman Gary Perea

entertained a motion to send a letter as requested. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to send a letter to the CLGF in support of proposed new permanent regulations amending NAC 354.660 which provides for the amount of budgeted ending fund balance not subject to negotiations in conformance with SB168. Commissioner Richard Howe seconded. Motion carried.

#### **NOTICE OF UNTIMED AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **DISCUSSION/UPDATE ON THE WHITE PINE COUNTY TOURISM & RECREATION BOARD AND THEIR BUDGET**

Marketing Director Ed Spear provided handouts to the Board of a couple scenarios pertaining to the 2.5% increase. The first page represents the 2.5% room tax revenue, as broken down. He emphasized that the Tourism & Recreation Board doesn't have \$1.1 million, it's actually 7.055% in operating costs, or \$674,000. He explained the City of Ely would receive \$47,826 from the first year of 1%, and then it would be a "pass through" for other entities, such as the Nevada Northern Railroad, the Aquatic Center, etc. This year their budget will spend down their fund balance to renovate the back of the Convention Center so it will match the front. The original 2.5% is the actual amount of funds that the Tourism & Recreation Board would lose out of their budget for the first year, illustrated on the chart. He continued that Page 2 shows what they would lose during their second year; Page 3 shows the amount of their resources that would go strictly towards the City of Ely's infrastructure, which he noted is nearly half the budget of the Tourism & Recreation Board. He cited fixed costs for their board, and after taking 40-50% of their budget away "most everything will come to a halt." He added that the City of Ely did allow increasing the room tax for each year during the 3-year period; however, their board would still lose \$50,000. Following some discussion, it was noted that in order for the County to utilize some of the room tax for infrastructure, it would need to be placed on the ballot; it would also be for a maximum increase of 1%, it was noted. Per request of the Board, Director Spear will provide regular updates regarding the Tourism & Recreation Board. Chairman Gary Perea commended what the Tourism & Recreation Board does, and Marketing Director Ed Spear in particular, in being a great asset for the County.

#### **DISCUSSION ONLY ON ½ CENT TRANSIENT TAX**

Chairman Gary Perea felt we need some direction on what we're moving towards; he has some reservations about the ½ cent transient tax, and wished it was particularly dedicated to the Golf Course. Director Spear noted that it can be made specifically dedicated to the Golf Course; it could be done, but "it would be a budget nightmare." Commissioner Laurie Carson advised she would also like to see the Senior Center included in that dedication as well; Chairman Perea noted this would be strictly for tourism. Commissioner Richard Howe advised that if another entity wants a portion of this tax, the Golf Course would get most of it, but as they amended their proposal to make it for outdoor recreation, perhaps someone would put in for it occasionally so it could be considered. Commissioner Mike Coster noted that we are the only Airport in the State that qualifies for Tourism & Recreation Board funding, citing our population and distance from other airports. He clarified that we also have different conditions pertaining to flights per day, etc., which is why we do qualify under NRS 244A.622. He felt perhaps this could also be looked at in the future. Chairman Gary Perea noted this agenda item was for discussion only; he felt the Board could ask Director Frances to come back with the necessary paperwork to move forward with the tax increase. This would generate nearly \$48,000, of which 6% comes from the County (\$4,100), so it was noted the dollar amount wouldn't have a large impact. Director Spear felt it would be at least August or September of this year before the ½ cent transient tax is actually instituted.

#### **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Building & Planning Dept. update/direction and the City/County contract.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Road Maintenance Superintendent Bill Miller advised that there will be a request for bids for a new motor grader, which will be advertised prior to June 10<sup>th</sup>.

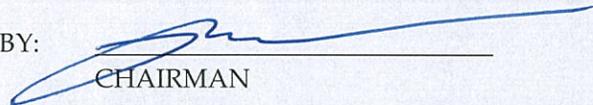
Commissioner Mike Coster advised that Building Official Brad Christiansen will come to a meeting of the McGill Town Council, to respond to the questions posed regarding the nuisance process. Commissioner Coster will keep the Commission informed on this.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:34 a.m., Chairman Gary Perea entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Richard Howe made the motion; Commissioner Carol McKenzie seconded. Motion carried.

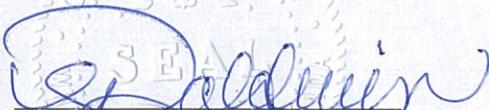
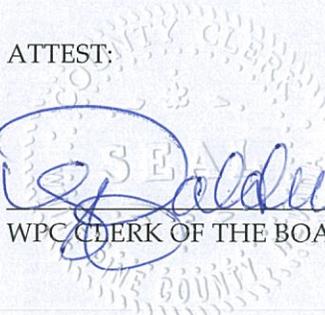
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY OF WHITE PINE  
STATE OF NEVADA

BY:



CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:



WPC CLERK OF THE BOARD