

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

A meeting of the Regional Transportation Commission was held on January 17, 2019, at 8:00 a.m. in White Pine County Library Conference Room, 950 Campton Street, Ely, Nevada.

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT:

Wayne Cameron, Chairman
Richard Howe, WPC Commission
Jolene Gardner, City of Ely

ALSO PRESENT:

Bill Calderwood, WPC Public Works Director
Russ Merritt, City of Ely
BJ Almberg, Basin Engineering
Naomi Harris, Recording Secretary
George Chachas
Bill Sanford

ABSENT WERE:

Steve Baer, NDOT Representative
Desiree Barnson, Representing Ely Bus

Wayne Cameron called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

***COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (3 Minute Time Limit):** - George Chachas started by reminding Chairman Cameron that codes are not being enforced.

Carol McKenzie in Lund has yet to address the flagrant disregard for ADA access on the concrete sidewalk she installed last year. She claims it is on her property yet the sidewalk is a mere 12" from the State right-of-way outside her fence line. She was on the Regional Planning Commission as Chairman for years. She knows better and needs to comply. We either have rules or we don't That's why you guys are here; to enforce them.

There is no ADA access on the corners of Avenue C and 11th Street, 13th Street and Avenue M. We're going on years now. George asked if the Board is going to address that as they are RTC projects.

He continued on saying that nothing has been done on 7th Street at the railroad crossing above the old grade school. He said it was a Federal project and does not meet ADA. Rip rap was installed from the fence line to the street, forcing handicapped persons to walk in the traffic. That road has also been narrowed because of the rip rap. He said if any of them had been up there they would know what he's talking about. He said the Historical Railroad needs to address that. Or cut off all of their funding including the application for Federal funds for other projects. Speaking to Jolene Gardner, he said he has yet to hear anything from her.

He said the Mill Street project they started last year needs to be a General Improvement District. There's a lack of curb and gutter which needs to be installed, as per City policy. The oil chipseal application does not meet the minimum Ely City Code for street improvement standards. He said they need to stop before someone finds out or they will have to tear it out.

George stated that at the October 18, 2018 RTC meeting he told The Board about a news article dealing with Avenue F and how Nathan Robertson and other business people are concerned about the flow of traffic and how it will affect their businesses. George wants to remind them that the downtown community is also concerned with the flow of traffic and the lack of business. Where there is no traffic, there is no business. He said if the State budget is that tight, they should just do the beautification and leave the rest as-is and forget the fluff.

George also wanted to remind the Board that they still have not gotten back to him in regards to proper access coming off of Park Avenue, Campton Street, Avenue I, Avenue K and Avenue L. All are accessing Great Basin Blvd. and none of them meet the minimum City codes. The City of Ely sued George even though he followed their direction on 7th Street and Avenue G. Avenue G is much wider than any of the other streets mentioned. He said again, they cannot selectively enforce the law and yet they appear to do that.

George continued on saying that Keith Carson has yet to fulfill the RTC agreement he made in regards to the Orson and Ruby Street valley gutter. He also is yet to complete the curb and gutter along Ruby Street. He asked if there are different rules for different people.

Lastly, George wants to remind The Board that he wants 4 lanes downtown; not 2. When they negatively affect businesses downtown they need to buy those out that they affect. He asked if they have a State application for buyouts or does the County buyout businesses they destroy.

DISCUSSION/ACTION/POSSIBLE APPROVAL – SELECTION OF RTC CHAIRMAN POSITION – A discussion was had about who should be Chairman and it was decided that Wayne Cameron should retain the position of Chairman for another year. Richard Howe made a motion to keep Wayne Cameron as the RTC Chairman. Jolene Gardner seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was approved.

DISCUSSION – UPDATES FROM NDOT – None.

DISCUSSION – CURRENT CITY OF ELY PROJECTS – Russ Merritt said currently the City of Ely is just plowing, trying to keep up with the snow. Whenever they get decent weather they try to go back and do cleanup work, sweeping, etc. If they get some decent days they will go back to cracksealing.

Wayne Cameron asked if the City and County have their snowblowers working. Russ replied yes.

Richard Howe asked if they had designated places to pile their snow. Russ said the City has 3-4 different properties around town where they dispose of their snow. Richard Howe asked Bill Calderwood the same question in regards to the County. Bill said he thinks they are all just out on the highway. Richard Howe asked if the old dump on Great Basin Highway was one of the

County's dumping spots. BJ AlMBERG said that is probably NDOT's spot. Bill Calderwood said the County dumps in that yard also. Richard Howe asked about the pile by the Duck Pond. Bill Calderwood said he is not sure where they are hauling that snow and that he would think they are hauling on top of Great Basin or to an NDOT spot. Richard Howe asked if there are plenty of dumping spots so they don't have any problems like obstructing traffic or something like that. Bill Calderwood said they do and they accumulate the snow on the bottom side of the Duck Pond in case there is something going on at the Courthouse like a jury trial.

DISCUSSION/ACTION/POSSIBLE APPROVAL – CITY OF ELY RTC BUDGET FY20 –
Bill Calderwood asked if the Board wanted to do Items 6 and 8 at the same time because it is basically the same budget.

Russ Merritt started the discussion. He said the City of Ely is asking RTC for \$240,000 for projected projects for the next fiscal year. The City would like to put together some microseal projects consisting of 70,000 – 90,000 square yards, which would include upper East Ely and The Canyon. For materials the City would like to ask for \$200,000 for materials which would pay for rejuvenating oil for the distributor truck and then other materials which would help aide in maintenance of City roads.

Wayne Cameron asked how much funding they have coming this year.

Bill Calderwood referenced an email he sent out and printed for this meeting and stated the RTC balance at the end of this fiscal year will be \$1.9 million. They budgeted FY2019 in the amount of \$878,550, which they probably will not spend. The anticipated revenue RTC receives is ±\$680,000 which he feels is a good estimate as they typically receive between \$650,000-\$750,000.

Wayne Cameron asked BJ AlMBERG if it will generate any revenue for RTC if the diesel tax passes. BJ said he does not think there is anything out there that is supposedly passing. The last time fuel indexing was on the ballot it was voted down by White Pine County. He does not think there is anything in legislature at the moment. Bill Calderwood said he thought there was something. BJ said if there is he will have to find it to see what's going on. He said if the County would have passed the fuel indexing two years ago he believes they would be getting more money back as there is a lot of diesel fuel being sold at Love's. He believes Love's is on a contract with all of the trucking companies you see fueling up there. Those trucking companies used to fuel up at Love's in Wells and they would make it all the way down to Love's in Las Vegas and would skip over Ely. Now there are new options so you see a lot of trucks fueling up at the local Love's. There seems to be a lot more diesel fuel sold in White Pine County than ever before but he believes they are not getting diesel fuel tax back, only regular gas tax. The diesel fuel tax goes right back to the State.

Richard Howe asked about the last diesel fuel tax proposal. He thought it was going to be \$.06/gallon. BJ AlMBERG said the fuel indexing they were looking for was an annual percentage increase based on CPI, which is an inflation factor. They would allow it to increase annually based on your CPI (Consumer Price Indexing) but it was not necessarily based on 1 year. You had to go on a 10 year average of that CPI so even if something happened this year and inflation went up 10% your fuel indexing would never go up 10% because it's based on a 10 year average. He believes there was also a 3% cap max that it could go up. That's what was proposed as the

maximums but at the end of the day that fuel indexing actually gave the authority back to the local counties. The County Commission is actually the one who would have set the rate that it would be going up, 3%, 1%, whatever they chose. There was a maximum but the local entities actually set the rate.

Richard Howe agreed and said there is a lot of fuel being pumped at the R Places and Love's and asked BJ AlMBERG how much revenue the County would have generated, had the fuel indexing passed for White Pine County. BJ said he does not recall exactly what the numbers were but he believes it was a couple hundred thousand dollars. He does not think it was millions of dollars. Wayne Cameron said the article he read said it would generate about \$600,000 for White Pine County. Richard Howe asked if that money would have gone to the Road Department. BJ said he believes it would have gone to the RTC. Richard Howe said \$600,000 would have doubled the RTC budget had it passed. He also said local residents do not generate a lot of diesel tax, it is generated mainly from diesel trucks traveling through. BJ said the fuel indexing would have also applied to fuel for normal vehicles. It was not just a straight up diesel fuel tax, it was for all fuel indexing. Richard asked for clarification. He asked if that would have been voted in, would it have raised the gas tax also. BJ said yes, as a local entity they would have been able to put a cap on the gas tax and a different cap on the diesel tax. Richard asked if they could have had the option to do just one, and not both. BJ said he believes they probably would have had that option. Richard Howe said that all needs to be brought back and explained to the residents about what they are actually voting for because they just vote no. This has nothing to do with raising the taxes that you hear from the anti-tax people. This is a revenue generator for their roads that they are using and look at the money they are spending for fixing these roads. Jolene Gardner agreed and said that is not how it was presented to the residents and that is why they voted no. A discussion was had and everyone agreed that the public was not properly informed.

BJ AlMBERG said he learned from his meetings in Carson City that this was up on every ballot in every county in the state, except Washoe County because they were already on it. Clark County was already on it for 3 years prior but it was expiring so they had to basically renew. Clark County was the only county it passed in. The month after the vote, in Carson City, the public in the audience were people from Clark County. They said their county voted it in and expressed that they did not want that additional revenue pooled and sent to the state to distribute to other counties. Now Clark County is watching very closely to make sure they are not losing what they consider their state share. They're adding additional money to their funds for their projects. You have a Clark County Governor coming on board also who will be watching for the same thing. The money will stay in Clark County. Richard Howe asked if that vote takes place in the general elections in the County. He asked if they opened the door again, can it go on the 2020 ballot. BJ said it is outside his expertise but White Pine County may be tapped out in their gas tax percentage per NRS. George Chachas said the diesel tax is different and they need to check to see if it passed the last time. He said it had nothing to do with indexing. BJ disagreed and said it did.

Bill Calderwood went back to the topic at hand – the budget. He referenced the proposed budget everyone had a copy of and explained it. He said they left everything pretty much the same except they reduced the postage line item slightly from the year prior. They are requesting County Road Expenditures to be \$270,000 which is strictly for supplies. Last year this Board approved \$250,000 for both entities. The City reduced their portion down to \$200,000 this year because Russ thinks that's what they can spend. The County increased theirs slightly. They put some in for

Engineering and Contract Services is \$550,000. The breakdown is listed for Contract Services: The LTAP line item is for 11th Street down to the Rail Road. That was for the SHPO (State Historical Preservation Office) compliance. BJ said the City received the LTAP grant for some stuff down on 11th Street. It is very involved because it is federal funding. When the City applied for it they intended to turn it back to NDOT (if they were awarded the funds) to be used as a part of NDOT's project. NDOT told them that they could not do it because NDOT's project is 100% state funded and there are no federal funds associated with it. The problem in adding federal funding to a project is that they have substantially more requirements that they would have to go through to be able to use federal funding. If NDOT uses federal funding for just a portion of their project, the same requirements apply to their whole project. They do not want to pay for the additional costs it would take to go jump through the federal hurdles. NDOT told the City that they would have to take care of all of their issues as a separate contract and they cannot piggyback with NDOT. The idea is to get that project completed and out on the street at the same time that the Contractor will be here. So before he wraps up and leaves the community they have a contractor here that is capable of bidding on the project who can potentially do some additional work on that project. Bill Calderwood continued explaining the additional items under Contract Services: Equipment Rental for \$50,000 is available to both entities so, for example, if Russ with the City wants to use a steel drum roller to finish up the Mill Street Project, that is a line item that allows him to use the funds from there. Russ already gave them the City streets breakdown. As for the County streets breakdown, it would be a slurry project to complete the streets in Lund. Last year the County did a rejuvenating oil and this year they want to do a slurry seal over that. And that would finish up the streets in Lund, minus the ones in the lower end of town where they did the soil stabilization. As for those streets, they want to move forward with a second treatment and perhaps a chipseal depending on how they hold up this winter. Total proposed budget as described is \$1,073,550. That puts them in deficit spending. They traditionally get \pm \$680,000 so they would be in deficit spending but they have an ending fund balance of \$1.9 million. He believes that fund balance is too high. He believes that they should continue to stay in deficit spending and be aggressive with equipment purchases, for example. He also likes the idea of the slurry truck. He thinks they need to spend that balance down a little bit. He believes it is hard for the public to swallow that there is 3 years worth of funds sitting there. He said you obviously want to keep some kind of fund balance but it doesn't look good. Richard Howe agreed and said if you have the money you should get the work done. He said it's okay to have 5% - 10% in a "rainy day fund" but if they have the money they should get the work done. That is what happened even with the County. They were saving money to make themselves look good but they weren't getting the work done. Get the jobs outlined and get the work done. Bill Calderwood concluded by saying the budget worksheets won't be out until January 25, 2019 but this is the breakdown of line items for the budget. He said they are going to have to hold another meeting for the Public Transit budget. He will wait for the budget worksheets to come out. Also, Desi Barnson will have to make a request for funding for Ely Bus. Last year she raised it from \$25,000 to \$27,000. The budget worksheets come out on January 25, 2019 and they have to be returned to the Finance Department around February 9, 2019 so they will need to get final approval before then. A discussion was had in regards to the date for the next meeting.

Wayne Cameron asked Bill Calderwood if he has an estimate of what will be carried over to the next fiscal year. Bill said out of the \$500,000 for materials for both entities, the County will probably carry over \pm \$30,000. The problem with the County and probably the City too, is that they were counting on the distributor truck being here so they could start doing projects internally.

They probably won't even get into too much deficit spending this next year because of that money carrying over.

Richard Howe asked about the rest of FY19. He said they budgeted for Oxborrow and finishing up Mill Street and asked if there are any other projects for FY19. Bill Calderwood said in FY19 they plan on doing the third stabilization on 212N and that will be chipsealed and a second stabilization on Poleline Road which will be chipsealed as well. Richard asked if 212N is Lackawanna and Bill said it is the dirt road that cuts across from the McGill Highway just past the airport. Richard asked if it is the oil road. Bill said just a section of it is. There is a section in the middle that is oil. The County went from there and headed west, about a mile. It works pretty well for the oil trucks. The amount they bring in is about a mile's worth. BJ Almborg asked for clarification. When Bill says Poleline Road is he talking about going from the McGill side going towards Lackawanna ending by the Fire Station? Bill said no. The Poleline is from the Prison Highway going a mile east towards the Fire Station. That mile ends up being just short of the Lackawanna Fire Station. For Mitchell/Oxborrow they're planning on doing the first treatment but it probably will not be until next fiscal year. Richard Howe asked how much of Mitchell/Oxborrow are they planning to finish. Bill Calderwood said one mile. One mile will take it from the Highway down Oxborrow to the end of the county road then Mitchell to the end of the county road. Richard Howe asked for clarification. Bill said Oxborrow runs east-west, Mitchell runs north-south. Richard asked if they are doing Oxborrow all the way down to the end of the county road and to the end of Mitchell. Bill answered yes.

Richard Howe made a motion to approve the FY20 RTC budget proposal in the amount of \$1,073,550 for Items 6 and 8 on the agenda. Jolene Gardner seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was approved.

DISCUSSION – CURRENT COUNTY PROJECTS – Bill Calderwood said he already covered everything in the previous items.

DISCUSSION – UPDATE ON PARTICIPANT STATISTICAL AREAS PROGRAM (PSAP) – BJ Almborg said the PSAP timeline just started after the first of the year. The issue they have run into is that there is a furlough going on. Last fall they worked on getting things designated as Bill Calderwood as the contact and BJ Almborg as a support for Bill to get through this. The census is broken up into a bunch of little blocks. What they are trying to do is make modifications to those blocks so they will modify their area to change it up a little bit. There is certain criteria of how they try to encompass our blocks based on population densities and such. Some of our areas they have spread out into pretty big blocks where we would meet the population density if we could modify that block. The main goal in this is getting another 300 citizens within this area and then we would cross over the 5,000 threshold which would be an urban-type cluster. Once you cross that threshold you qualify for so many more federal grants. We're only about 300 people shy of being able to apply for federal grants. When you look at it, it isn't even following the City boundaries. It's following their census tracks as they put it together. Richard Howe asked if it is all within the City limits. BJ said no. The census track does not follow our City boundary. Some tracks go out into the County. One of the areas they are trying to get incorporated in is down Fairview Lane by the Fairgrounds area. As you get further east down by Ronny Jordan's place there is a lot of land there all the way out to Steptoe Ditch. A lot of the census tracks were put together using natural features like Steptoe Ditch. They use that as a boundary. So they are trying

to get it pulled back in to the end of Fairview Lane. There are quite a few people down Fairview Lane until you get out to Ronny Jordan's place. That's what hurts us as far as the density population. Richard Howe asked if that has to be annexed. BJ said no. Bill Calderwood asked if this is proposed and done and are we just waiting for approval. BJ said no. In January they were supposed to start training you how to input this information into their software so it goes to them in a format that is acceptable to them. We have 120 days to get this information back to them and they will work the rest of the year in getting it back to us showing where they modified based on the information we provided them. BJ said they went back and looked at the individual census tracked, added in the population from the last census of how many people who live in those tracks and there are places where, with modifications, we will absolutely be able to pick up our 300 people. Based on our census from 10 years ago one would hope that our numbers have gone up just because we're busy and have things going on. Richard Howe said our numbers have gone up since the first of the year so we shouldn't have any problem. BJ said yes he believes so and we might even pick up more than the 300 needed. Wayne Cameron said he hopes everything works out for us because it could really help us out. BJ agreed and said when it comes to federal funding, Nevada is a 5% match state which isn't necessarily the same as all of the other states. We have so much public land compared to the other states that have a lot of private land. It goes back to when Harry Reid was back there. He convinced them that we should only pay 5% when the other states have to pay 15% - 20%.

DISCUSSION – FOR HOUSING, TRAINING, MECHANIC'S WORK AND RECORDS FOR RTC JOINT OWNERSHIP/OPERATION OF NEW DISTRIBUTOR TRUCK –

Bill Calderwood said he visited with Russ Merritt and they agreed that the new distributor truck will be housed at the County Road Shop. Based on availability, a majority of the mechanic's work will go to the County mechanics. As far as record keeping and things like that, the County already keeps records anyway. Every piece of equipment is tracked and they know exactly what is going on with the equipment. One of the things they are budgeting this year is a 3-sided shed to help store some of the equipment out of the weather. That's a big problem. It sits out in the weather. Russ Merritt said the City is in agreeance with the County. Most of the City projects are going to be joint projects with the County anyway and the County has the facility to house it. The City is in total agreeance in regards to the housing and maintenance and training and things like that. Bill Calderwood said training with Bearcat is included with the purchase price. The Bearcat was slightly more expensive but the State also has a Bearcat and they offered to help with training as well. They have been super good with the County. Steve Baer and Eric Trujillo both have been a great help. Richard Howe commended both the County (Bill Calderwood) and the City of Ely (Russ Merritt and BJ Almberg) for sitting down on their own time and working with each other. The Board all agreed that it is nice to see everyone working together. Richard Howe made a motion for housing, training, mechanic's work and records for RTC joint ownership/operation of new distributor truck to be housed at the County. Jolene Gardner seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was approved.

DISCUSSION – SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING – The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, February 4, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. in the White Pine County Library (Back Room).

***APPROVAL OF RTC MINUTES (10/18/18)** – Richard Howe made a motion to approve the 10/18/18 meeting minutes. Wayne Cameron seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was approved. Jolene Gardner abstained.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (3 Minute Time Limit) – George Chachas said nothing has been brought forward in regards to Veteran’s Boulevard and Great Basin Boulevard on whether anyone is going to put in a pedestrian overhead ramp. It’s the busiest intersection in the community. He said they might want to put a counter out there if you don’t believe him. There are still no signs in regards to the school in that area. There are still no signs regulating speed in that area. They’re bringing in that much more traffic in now and they’re contemplating putting the courthouse and jail in that area which is going to increase the traffic even more. He said they need to tell the County that the courthouse needs to stay in the downtown area, as those people are confused. They forget that they represent everybody in this community, not just one section of the community.

Recently there were improvements made on Aultman and 8th Street at R-Place 2. City codes are not being met. The curb and gutter extensions were not completed and concrete sidewalks were not installed. On Avenue B and 11th Street (Nevada Northern Railway), Mr. Bassett put in sidewalk property on one side but not on Avenue B. He said again that we have standards, we have rules, and we have regulations. On these two particular issues, George went and talked to the people overseeing the projects and he told them we have got to stick to what we have in regards to our regulations. “You know what happened? Nothing!” BJ Alberg said they did follow the regulations. The City of Ely does not have a code that requires sidewalks on existing developments. George said yes it does.

George went on to say in regards to the LTAP grant, they need to put the railroad on notice. The Railroad has to complete their federal projects as everybody else does, in particular ADA access on 7th Street.

Wayne Cameron adjourned the meeting at 8:50 a.m.

Bill Calderwood

From: Bill Calderwood
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 1:15 PM
To: Naomi Harris
Cc: Martin Troutt; 'Russell Merritt'
Subject: RTC FY2020 Proposed Budget

Naomi,

Please add this email as back-up material for the January 17th RTC Meeting.

- RTC Budget on 6/30/18 \$1,922,175.00
- Budgeted amount for FY2019 (\$878,550.00)
- Anticipated revenue for FY2019 \$682,821.00
- Estimated fund balance on 6/30/19 * *\$1,726,446.00

*This amount assumes that both entities spend 100% of this year's budget.

I would recommend budgeting between \$680,000.00 and \$900,000.00 for FY2020, this amount should include the following: PACT, Legal Advertising, Postage, Equipment under \$5,000.00, Equipment Fuel, Oil and Grease, Equipment Repair and Maintenance, Engineering Services, and Equipment over \$5,000.00. The county would like to continue budgeting \$250,000.00 for "road expenditures" and assume the City of Ely would like to continue this practice as well. Contact me if you have any questions. Thanks...

White Pine County
Public Works Director
Bill Calderwood

RTC FY2020 BUDGET PROPOSAL

PACT	\$250.00
LEGAL ADVERTISING	\$500.00
POSTAGE	\$300.00
EQUIPMENT UNDER \$5000	\$4,000.00 (signage)
EQUIPMENT FUEL	\$3,000.00
OIL AND GREASE	\$500.00
EQUIPMENT REPAIR AND MAINT	\$5,000.00
CITY ROAD EXPENDITURE	\$200,000.00
COUNTY ROAD EXPENDITURE	\$270,000.00
ENGINEERING	\$40,000.00
CONTRACT SERVICES	\$550,000.00
EQUIPMENT OVER \$5000	\$0

CONTRACT SERVICES

LTAP	\$50,000.00
EQUIPMENT RENTAL	\$50,000.00
CITY STREETS SLURRY	\$240,000.00
<u>COUNTY STREETS SLURRY</u>	<u>\$210,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$550,000.00

TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET

\$1,073,550.00

