

IN A REGULAR MEETING OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY COMMISSION HELD ON FEBRUARY 26, 2020 IN THE COUNTY LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM IN ELY, NEVADA

The Following Were Present:

County Commission

- Richard Howe, Chairman
- Travis Godon, Vice-Chairman
- Ian Bullis, Commissioner
- Shane Bybee, Commissioner
- Laurie L. Carson, Commissioner
- Nichole Baldwin, Clerk of the Board
- Susan Lujan, Deputy Clerk

County Officials

- Mike Johnson, IT Specialist
- Lance Gale, Airport Manager
- Tim Bunch, Human Resources Director
- Elizabeth Frances, Finance Director
- Brett North, WPCFD Chief
- Mike Wheable, District Attorney
- Catherine Bakaric, WPC Treasurer
- Bryan Pyle, Deputy District Attorney
- Scott Henriod, WPC Sheriff
- Bernadett Sena, Admin. Assistant, Public Health
- Shannin Pierce, Public Health Nurse

Also Present

- Geri Wopschall
- George Chachas, KGTV-10
- A. Wilkin, WPCSEA
- Matt Pearson, WPCSEA
- Ross Rivera, Ely Fire Chief

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Chairman Richard Howe called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Ian Bullis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE/SILENT INVOCATION

This was duly observed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. George Chachas had some concerns about today’s agenda: First was the item regarding the Emergency Operations Center area being used for dry camping. He asked how much the County would charge for that, and if amenities were included. He pointed out that he can’t use his property per our Building Inspector, yet people can utilize their properties. He asked if the County was discriminating against veterans, disabled, and others. He then cited his property damage on High Street for which he is still awaiting compensation, and there’s still no Victim’s Fund in place. He wants equal protection under the law, since he pays thousands of dollars in taxes to the County. He then asked about the agenda item to consider deeding County-owned property to developers; he asked if this was properly advertised in the newspaper, which is required by NRS, and if there was an appraisal done on the property. He noted people have to pay Fair Market Value for their land. He added that regarding hookup fees, no waivers should be allowed but that full price must be paid. Next, he asked why the Emergency Management Director quit, noting there was nothing in the backup materials regarding this. He asked if the Board had a problem with people who have college degrees, and if they didn’t like him, why did they hire him to begin with? He also reviewed the CEDS plan pertaining to the Airport and that the Airport has two runways, 150’ and 60’. He wondered who’s proofreading

these reports, and why didn't they just state that they had both a long runway and a short runway? Time was called.

**9:30 A.M. – PROPOSED ORDINANCE 508**

**PUBLIC HEARING/DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: THE WHITE PINE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WILL TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 508, BILL 01.22.2020, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 8.04 OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY CODE REPEALING THE REQUIREMENT TO LICENSE DOGS**

Commissioner Shane Bybee advised that his fiancée is the Chairman of the City Animal Control Board, and so he will be abstaining from this agenda item. Chairman Richard Howe noted it was requested letters be read into the record; they are identical letters, one signed by Ely Mayor Nathan Robertson, and the other by Ms. Kay Lynn McMurray, Chairman of the City Animal Control Board. The letter was read into the record.



**CITY OF ELY**

501 Mill Street Ely, Nevada 89301  
City Hall (775) 289-2430  
Fax (775) 289-1463

February 13, 2020

Chairman Richard Howe  
White Pine County Commission  
801 Clark Street, Suite 4  
Ely, Nevada 89301

FILED  
2020 FEB 20 AM 11:20  
WHITE PINE COUNTY CLERK  
BY [Signature]

Chairman Howe:

Please see that this letter is read into the record at your next meeting.

The Ely City Council voted at their February 13, 2020 meeting to notify White Pine County of their opposition to proposed County ordinance 508, which would repeal the existing regulation that a dog owner must license the animal.

Dog licensing is an integral part of insuring vaccinations take place, making for responsible pet ownership. The numbers of licensed dogs in White Pine County and the City of Ely have been historically low, but our response to that as a community should be increased outreach and education. All members of our community have a right to be protected against rabid dogs and neighbors who have twenty dogs without a breeder's license. Licensing also decreases the need for anti-rabies treatments following dog bite incidents, as one needs to show proof of rabies vaccination when licensing the dog. In addition, dog license fees assist in making the community's Animal Control facilities better.

The license requirement also protects our residents' dogs, as it's the best identification a dog can wear; if the dog is lost, a license will help get the dog back home.

The City of Ely has worked hard to improve animal welfare in the past few years, resulting in large grants from Maddie's Pet Project that benefit City and County residents. A repeal of dog licensing requirements in White Pine County may harm future grant awards because it would appear that we are negligent in our efforts to promote animals' wellbeing here.

Finally, on June 11, 2019, City of Ely Animal Control received a letter from the McGill Town Council about complaints they had received from residents at a recent meeting regarding dogs running at large, requesting patrols of specific addresses; see attached. Licensing contributes to better enforcement of Animal Control regulations currently in place.

Sincerely,

[Signature]  
Nathan Robertson

The City of Ely is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Chairman Richard Howe asked for public comment; there was none. Commissioner Travis Godon clarified that all the existing Ordinances would remain in place regarding the animals, and those are still enforceable. District Attorney Mike Wheable noted there are other requirements that stipulate rabies vaccinations in our existing Ordinances. Commissioner Godon continued that people don't license their dogs and aren't having them vaccinated. He noted that Commissioner Ian Bullis, among others, is working on the ability to have dogs vaccinated free of charge. He appreciated the City's concern noted in the letter, but we're not doing away with the code, just the licensing portion that people aren't following anyway. He assured the assemblage that we're working on a solution to make it better. Commissioner Bullis advised he's contacted the Nevada Humane Society last week to see if someone could come and address this Board and answer some questions. They're willing to do this, and in fact they do this all the time. So, he continued, we're trying to accomplish a goal and minimize untagged dogs, besides increasing owners' responsibility and mitigate the risk of rabies where possible. Although we are rural and we do have wild animals running around, if we could increase the vaccinations and have ID tags, that would be good. He felt this Ordinance would not accomplish that goal. If the Nevada Humane Society is willing to help us with this at no cost, a great event could be held and it would be a more positive solution. It would also demonstrate that we're working with the Nv. Humane Society to put on these events, which will in turn be beneficial with regard to our receiving grants. Commissioner Laurie Carson still felt this Ordinance serves a purpose; she doesn't see this in light of doing something we've always done, but instead that we are trying to be proactive and look to the future. She felt this shouldn't be repealed. Chairman Richard Howe has no problem with tabling this for now; in his opinion, licensing should be necessary whether at the City or County level. It's the responsibility of the owner to license their dog; we could still have the Nv. Humane Society come out here to do the free vaccinations, but the question remains if we should repeal the licenses. He agrees with Commissioner Carson, this is already in place and we do "have some teeth in the game." Commissioner Ian Bullis and Commissioner Travis Godon felt this item should be tabled. Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to table this item; Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried, with Commissioner Shane Bybee abstaining from the vote.

#### 10:00 A.M. – CEDS – COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

##### DISCUSSION ONLY: THE WHITE PINE COUNTY COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 5-YEAR DOCUMENT

Finance Director Elizabeth Frances cited the backup materials and emphasized this is only a draft, not the final version. It's a 5-year document; she wants this Board to have the opportunity to review and start thinking about this. She explained it started out as a regional document from NNRDA which made its way to the University of Reno, and evolved into brainstorming sessions to come up with ideas. Director Frances is working with some of our communities to identify some of their specific strategies. She provided a handout listing some goals, and asked if the Board thought they were representative of what should be included in the strategic plan? Does it omit anything major? She is asking the Board to review and prioritize this list of goals, and they can delete/modify the list as they feel would be appropriate. She felt the Board should be able to take action on prioritizing at the next Commission meeting in March; she welcomed comments and emails regarding this. Commissioner Ian Bullis congratulated Director Frances for her hard work in this effort; he noted that besides our Finance Director, she's also functioning as our Economic Development Director, our IT Director, and other hats that she isn't paid to wear! He wished to commend her publicly for all she does for the County.

10:30 A.M.

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO CHANGE OR UPGRADE EXISTING RADIO EQUIPMENT IN LIGHT OF RECURRING ISSUES**

By request, Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to table. Commissioner Ian Bullis made the motion; Commissioner Travis Godon seconded. Motion carried.

**ITEMS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS**

**COUNTY COMMISSION**

**RICHARD HOWE, CHAIRMAN**

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO UTILIZE PROPERTY AT THE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC) FOR DRY CAMPING TO ASSIST WITH HOUSING SHORTAGE DURING UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

Chairman Richard Howe advised this could be a way the County could assist with major construction that's going to be taking place, by providing areas for housing the numerous construction workers for a long period of time. He noted the City of Ely has authorized some units to be used, such as spaces in the older trailer parks, etc. The reason this is on the agenda is to see if the Commission would have an appetite to provide property at the EOC for dry camping, should a serious need arise. Commissioner Laurie Carson advised that she, Ms. Donna Bath, and Public Works Director Bill Calderwood had looked at the area by the EOC. Anticipating the construction workers coming in to work on the new Courthouse, plus NDOT employees, we are severely short for housing in our area. It was noted that the KOA could provide 7-10 new spots there, with this need in mind. She continued to note that someone would need to be contracted regarding sewage; potable water could be delivered. If every place else is filled up, the EOC area could be utilized in an emergency as a mancamp. Commissioner Travis Godon was fine with this, but cautioned we would have to deal with reputable companies in order to have someone accountable to clean up the area, perhaps a contractor. Commissioner Shane Bybee agreed that we should ensure every available option is filled before we take this on. Chairman Richard Howe agreed, and based on today's discussion, if and when there's a critical need shortage, we could contract and make the EOC space available. He added this would be for over a 2-year period. Commissioner Ian Bullis added that if some property owners, including Mr. George Chachas, has the room, we could also do some waivers within reason to assist with this as well. He asked if there were lots of spaces in the City that could help with this, could we override and utilize those as well; the reply was that we don't have any jurisdiction within the City. Airport Manager Lance Gale noted that an area in the Airport has already been set up to do dry camping, so overflow could also be considered there; he added it's already prepped and ready to go. The Board agreed the Airport area could be the first option. District Attorney Mike Wheable advised that the County wouldn't be looking to micromanage property or to compete; we would have to look at other properties too, such as in the Industrial Park. He agreed that a certain amount of maintenance would be required for these areas, and that also needs to be taken into consideration. He added we should not be looking to encumber the EOC area; he encouraged the Board look at other properties and bring them back to the Commission to consider for this.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF TRANSFER DEED, WITH RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS, DEEDING COUNTY-OWNED PROPERTY WHITE PINE COUNTY ASSESSOR'S APN 002-371-13, FROM WHITE PINE COUNTY TO JCR DEVELOPMENT, LLC

Chairman Richard Howe noted this is also for the housing, and provided an update. He had approached the Municipal Utilities Board to request waiving fees, but they didn't have an appetite for that; they tabled it instead. He also attended the City Council meeting and asked the same question, with the same response; their advisory board in these matters is the Municipal Utilities Board, and so they also tabled it. So he went to the Building Dept. to see how the City could be encouraged to cooperate with us on this, and took Deputy District Attorney Bryan Pyle with him. He noted that the developer wants to work with the County, and he reported they are going to the City; this is moving forward. The deed was opened and accepted, all was properly advertised and legal, including an appraisal of the property. The economic development and critical housing portion was done, and now the process to get these houses started; if approved today, then the deed will be transferred. He added that it is hoped the City will help us out, but if they don't we will still be doing this. Commissioner Godon noted that once the housing is built, perhaps some modifications with respect to the title could be done. Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to approve. Commissioner Travis Godon made a motion to transfer the deed with restrictive covenants as requested. Commissioner Shane Bybee seconded. Motion carried.

TRAVIS GODON, VICE-CHAIRMAN

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF A LETTER REGARDING PART 139 CERTIFICATE AT THE YELLAND FIELD AIRPORT

Commissioner Travis Godon cited the draft letter in the backup material. He explained that as Airport Manager Lance Gale talks to prospective carriers looking to come to the Airport, we would now have a way to initiate this. Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to approve. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to approve the letter regarding the Part 139 Certificate at the Yelland Field Airport as requested. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried.

LAURIE CARSON, COMMISSIONER

DISCUSSION ONLY ON PROPERTIES HELD IN TREASURER'S TRUST

WPC Treasurer Catherine Bakaric provided a handout showing lists of properties currently held in the Treasurer's Trust. Commissioner Laurie Carson felt perhaps we could utilize some of these homes in moving forward to help with our housing crisis. Treasurer Bakaric noted the tax sale list on page 2 is current, and explained the APN numbers beginning with 001 are in the Ely Area, 003 is Ruth, 004 is McGill, etc. The highlighted properties on page 1 are looking to be taken this coming June; she noted that once something is taken for tax title, the County can absorb it immediately without having to wait 3 years per the process. Of the highlighted properties, she felt probably 90% of those would be redeemed. She added that the property by the Club 50 is approximately 50 acres, which could also possibly be utilized. Treasurer Bakaric added that Clark County has put forth a bill that would allow a faster process for taking abandoned properties, and that might be an avenue for us to look at; she will review the bill to see if it might help us in our circumstance; it's referred to as Abandoned Property Legislation. She cited our Ordinance already in place regarding nuisance properties that could also come into play here. Commissioner Ian Bullis noted that a Las Vegas developer has been in contact with him and Treasurer Bakaric; there's a problem with the timeline factor in our building code. He explained that if the property is purchased but a contractor isn't hired to rehab it, there's only a short

period of time in which to complete the requirements for the property, as he explained. Commissioner Bullis will meet with our D.A.'s office to see if there's something we could do to help alleviate that short timeframe. Mr. George Chachas felt that the item pertains to new construction, and that he wouldn't be able to sell, lease or rent a new home built for 1 year. Following further discussion, Treasurer Bakaric noted title companies won't clear a title for 1-2 years in order to allow time for the owners to come back, should they wish to retain the property. She added that a revised list of properties will be prepared and available by June; District Attorney Mike Wheable noted we could budget better from that list of properties that remain at that time. There was some discussion about monies being waived; Treasurer Bakaric clarified that penalties/interest could possibly be negotiated for waiver, but not the taxes. If a developer is interested in pursuing some of the homes, they should be able to look at them to see if they could turn them into clean, available properties; however, contractors cannot trespass if the homes are occupied, unless allowed to by the occupants. And as to the possibility of passing an Ordinance or Resolution that would entertain the notion of eviction, Treasurer Bakaric felt that it wouldn't be beneficial for citizens in the long-term; she couldn't support that. During the lengthy discussion, Commissioner Shane Bybee advised that we've invited public industry to show interest in these homes because we do have the option to pay their taxes, take the property, or give it to be redeveloped. He noted this had already been done in Ruth with Mr. Johnathan Dishong. He felt that it would be better for us to have an empty, clean lot rather than an abandoned building, however. He recommended a team review each property to see if we could intervene and take it ourselves; the owner could still pay their taxes on it. Commissioner Bybee also disclosed that his fiancée has a piece of property on this list so he will be abstaining from further discussion on this. Commissioner Laurie Carson advised this could also be a part of our beautification efforts in our community. She has a concern with the 3-year timeframe on these properties, because not just homes but also businesses are involved. She wondered where the liability would fall in the event something were to happen. D.A. Wheable clarified the County wouldn't incur any liability; it's just being held in the legal Treasurer's Trust. He would like to see an action item on the agenda to identify the top 10 priorities to be redeemed, and for what purpose. Commissioner Travis Godon requested Treasurer Bakaric put a star next to the properties that appeared at prior auctions but hadn't sold; she will provide this for the Board.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A LETTER  
PERTAINING TO THE EIS ON BLM'S PROPOSED UPDATE OF GRAZING RULES AND  
PROCEDURES

Commissioner Travis Godon advised he will abstain from discussion on this agenda item. Commissioner Laurie Carson disclosed that she had a conversation with Mr. Gracian Uhalde. She noted that PLUAC had some comments on this, which was passed along to this Board; there's a scoping meeting in Elko next week on this. Also received were some documents from Natural Resources Director Jake Tibbetts, of Eureka County. These are all comments on the BLM proposed rules, and this is on a national level; she felt it appropriate for us to be watching out for our permittees' interests. The PLUAC comments are what we could approve and send off as representative of White Pine County's comments on the EIS; Deputy District Attorney Bryan Pyle noted that the comments could be included in the letter that we send. The Board took a few moments to peruse the comments; Commissioner Carson appreciated Director Tibbetts' also sending us information. Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to approve. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to submit the letter pertaining to the EIS on the BLM's proposed update of grazing rules and procedures, as requested and discussed. Commissioner Shane Bybee seconded. Motion carried.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

**CAMERON KIRKHAM, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/RATIFICATION OF 2019 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PREPAREDNESS GRANT AWARD FROM THE DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT HOMELAND SECURITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000.00 FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2018 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 – THE REQUIRED COUNTY MATCH AMOUNT IS \$20,000.00 AND IT WILL BE PROVIDED THROUGH THE COUNTY’S GENERAL FUND

Finance Director Elizabeth Frances explained this is to be ratified, as it needed to be submitted in a timely manner; also, it will be showing behind in reports as is normal for grant funds. Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to ratify the 2019 EMPG grant for \$20,000 from the Div. of Emergency Management Homeland Security, with the County match of \$20,000 to be provided through the County’s General Fund. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried.

**LORI ROMERO, LIBRARY DIRECTOR/SR. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR**

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO ACCEPT THE GREAT BASIN HERITAGE AREA PARTNERSHIP GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,500 TO BE USED TOWARDS THE NEWSPAPER PRESERVATION ONLINE PROJECT – THERE IS A DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR MATCH BEING COVERED BY THE DIRECTOR’S SALARY

This item was tabled per Director Romero’s request, as she was unable to attend today.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO GIVE DIRECTION TO EXPLORE A SALES TAX INCREASE FOR THE WHITE PINE NUTRITION PROGRAM PER NRS 377A.030 OR A BALLOT QUESTION TO DESIGNATE A PORTION OF THE CURRENT PROPERTY TAX RATE COLLECTED TOWARDS THE PROGRAM

This agenda item was also tabled, per Director Romero.

**TIM BUNCH, HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR**

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO HIRE AN ON-CALL KITCHEN TECH/DRIVER FOR THE SENIOR CENTER

Human Resources Director Tim Bunch advised he had talked with Sr. Center Director Lori Romero regarding this; she has a concern that when one Kitchen Tech/Driver is called out, the burden is placed on either Director Romero or Program Supervisor Chris Ricci to do the driving in their place. She had offered extra hours for the current drivers, but many of them are retirees and no extra hours were wanted. While the on-call Kitchen Tech/Driver would still need to travel and train for the position, they could be a badly-needed backup for the Senior Center. In reply to a query from the Board, Director Bunch advised there would be no additional cost, since they would replace whoever was in the position who couldn’t drive and they would be paid that person’s wage. Finance Director Elizabeth Frances confirmed there would be no financial impact; in fact, she had encouraged this for some time, and today this Board has an opportunity to fill this sorely needed position. Commissioner Travis Godon made a motion to approve hiring an on-call Kitchen Tech/Driver for the Senior Center as requested. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried; the Board was happy to be able to create a pool for the drivers.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO RATIFY JOB DESCRIPTION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE ADVISORY BOARD PURSUANT TO BOCC APPROVAL JANUARY 21, 2020

Director Bunch apologized for not getting the Job Description or posting done back in January. He noted no candidates had inquired about this position to date, whether internally or externally. Director Frances reminded the Board that this is an hourly position, which could create an FMLA issue should overtime arise; but if the position is filled by a part-time employee, overtime wouldn't be as critical. For that reason, she would not encourage filling this position with an hourly person. Director Bunch advised he will post externally this week, and the Job Description will be completed in time for that posting. Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to ratify the Job Description for Administrative Assistant to the RPC as requested and approved by the BOCC on January 21, 2020. Commissioner Shane Bybee seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF CAMERON KIRKHAM, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR, EFFECTIVE 2/28/20

Human Resources Director Tim Bunch apologized that the backup material wasn't prepared in time for this agenda, but he did provide copies for the Clerk's Office and the D.A. regarding this; the letter was also copied for the public. Emergency Management Director Cameron Kirkham's resignation is effective this Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>; his letter was hand-delivered with 2 week's notice. Director Bunch noted that this letter was written in good will, and that Director Kirkham is requesting that the Board accept his resignation. Commissioner Shane Bybee made a motion to accept the resignation of Emergency Management Director Cameron Kirkham as requested. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO AMEND THE JOB DESCRIPTION FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

Director Bunch noted that a part-time grant writer was subordinate to the Emergency Management Director; however, the Job Description didn't include any supervisory ability, which needs to be added. Director Frances confirmed the only change was in the supervisory capacity over administrative staff. Commissioner Travis Godon made a motion to amend the Job Description for Emergency Management Director as requested. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO CONSIDER THE OPTION OF POSTING FOR REPLACEMENT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR POSITION OR TO CONSIDER ALLOWING STATE OF NEVADA EMERGENCY SERVICES TO ACT ON BEHALF OF WHITE PINE COUNTY AND THE OVERALL POSSIBLE FINANCIAL IMPACT

Director Bunch advised he had discussed this with Finance Director Elizabeth Frances, who had also held a conversation regarding this with the State of Nevada Emergency Services. Commissioner Ian Bullis noted that when he, Commissioner Godon and Director Bunch had met with Director Frances, they had also noted that this is something that had been done in the past; the County might be in a good position to do this again now. Instead of hiring someone else, it was clarified, perhaps our current Fire District Chief might be willing to take this on; however, it was noted he shouldn't be burdened by additional paperwork. As long as there is an Administrative Assistant who could take care of said paperwork, it wouldn't be putting undue pressure on our Fire Chief. District Attorney Mike Wheable noted that Mesquite does this, as do other communities in Nevada, such as

Elko. Chairman Richard Howe noted we had done this in the past and it had proven very effective; he felt this could be a viable solution. Director Bunch asked if the Board might wish to hear from the State on this as to how it would all play out, before they make a decision. D.A. Wheable did caution that the State would serve as backup for emergencies by sending support, but we wouldn't have a local person to be our "boots on the ground." They would coordinate emergencies, get equipment through grants, and represent our community from the State perspective. They wouldn't be local or writing grants for the County, as that's something our Emergency Manager/- Administrative Assistant would be doing. Ely Fire Chief Ross Rivera noted he's been on LEPC for many years; that board had stepped up, as he has in the past, to get things done. In discussions he's held with SERC he asked them about their role; they would be here to assist the outlying communities receive the grant funds, as well as be present in the event of emergencies or catastrophes. He emphasized that we do need to have our own, local Emergency Management Director, although LEPC can step in and assist. Chairman Richard Howe assured the assemblage that he didn't wish to scare anyone by this, it's just up for discussion. Director Frances noted that by staying local, we can budget funds in the General Fund to help pay for it; however, most of the monies for the position comes through the Federal and State grants. She added there's a County match of roughly \$29,000, paid from the General Fund. During the discussion, WPCFD Chief Brett North advised that he really didn't want this to cut into his Fire Chief's job; he's learning more today about what would be involved, and he had a concern about the time that would be needed to accomplish this. He would be willing to do this, but mentioned a 3- or 6-month trial might be good in case it proved to be too much. Director Bunch noted he's just had his 6-month probation period and he's done a lot, building bridges and confidence at this point. He had a suggestion; perhaps grooming Chief North in some of the job components, but not naming him as Emergency Manager Director at this point, would give him 6 more months in the Fire District for him to come up with a plan. D.A. Wheable noted that such functioning outside a Job Description has been done before; Chief North already has the relationships in place, which is important, and he's already filling some of the needed role of keeping a solid presence of Emergency Management in our community. Commissioner Carson felt Chief North is fully capable of doing this; she cited LEPC and Ely Fire Chief Ross Rivera, plus Director Frances, as the resources he would have. She supports Chief North doing this, and feels he would be a success. Following some discussion, D.A. Wheable felt agenda items could be placed on the next agenda for this; to include his name and salary rate for the position and take action, or to give him the opportunity to take 2 weeks to decide on this. To clarify, an item to do an "and/or", with the ability to advertise if he elects not to do this, should be on the agenda. Commissioner Shane Bybee wondered if we should consider a part-time, interim Chief to assist Chief North as he goes through the learning process. Following further discussion, per legal counsel's advice, Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to table this agenda item as well as the next one. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to table this agenda item and the next item regarding posting externally. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO POST EXTERNALLY FOR THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR POSITION IMMEDIATELY DUE TO THE RESIGNATION OF CAMERON KIRKHAM EFFECTIVE 2/28/20

This agenda item was tabled per the above motion as recommended by D.A. Wheable.

**ELIZABETH FRANCES, FINANCE DIRECTOR**

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF THE REMAINING QUARTERLY GRANT REPORTS**

Commissioner Travis Godon made a motion to approve the remaining quarterly reports as requested. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO CIVIL SCIENCE FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE NEVADA DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION-TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM-BAKER MULTI-USE TRAIL PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$133,400.00 PLUS REIMBURSEABLE**

Finance Director Elizabeth Frances requested this item be tabled; NDOT had contacted her and asked for a meeting with her, Public Works Director Bill Calderwood, and Civil Science to discuss this. Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to table as requested. Commissioner Shane Bybee seconded. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/RATIFICATION OF GRANT APPLICATION MADE BY ELIZABETH FRANCES TO NEVADA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 2020 CDBG FOR RELINING OF THE MCGILL SEWER POND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,750,000.00 TOTAL WITH \$75,150.00 AS THE PHASE 1 AMOUNT WITH A COUNTY MATCH OF \$5,060.00 FOR THE FIRST PHASE TO BE PROVIDED BY IN-KIND STAFF PARTICIPATION**

Director Frances advised this project was approved by the Commission at their last meeting. She explained this was submitted as a grant for the overall relining project, but this will just cover Phase 1. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to ratify the CDBG grant application to reline the McGill Sewer Pond, Phase 1, as requested. Commissioner Travis Godon seconded. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/RATIFICATION OF GRANT APPLICATION MADE BY ELIZABETH FRANCES TO NEVADA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 2020 CDBG FOR REMEDIATION OF THE MCGILL SLAG DITCH IN THE AMOUNT OF \$418,850.00 TOTAL WITH \$75,150.00 AS THE PHASE 1 AMOUNT WITH A COUNTY MATCH OF \$5,060.00 FOR THE FIRST PHASE TO BE PROVIDED BY IN-KIND STAFF PARTICIPATION**

Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to ratify the grant application for remediation of the McGill Slag Ditch for Phase 1, as requested. Commissioner Shane Bybee seconded. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO AWARD CONTRACT TO CAM AIR FOR ASBESTOS ABATEMENT OVERSIGHT FOR THE ELY OLD SHOP BUILDING DEMOLITION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$7,360.00**

Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to award the asbestos abatement contract for the Ely Old Shop Building demolition to Cam Air in an amount not to exceed \$7,360.00. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL AUTHORIZING THE COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSE CONTRACTED THROUGH THE NEVADA DEPT. OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES TO WORK WITH WHITE PINE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT FROM 3/1/2020 THROUGH 6/5/2020 IN THE ABSENCE OF THEIR SCHOOL HEALTH NURSE

Public Health Nurse Shannin Pierce advised that the State is trying to bring areas up to proper standards. They want to ensure that the kids in our schools are up to date on their vision, hearing, etc., take care of needs as they arise, and to be available for emergencies. She would be working with the School District until a full-time School Nurse is found; she added that she's fine with doing this. Commissioner Travis Godon made a motion to authorize Public Health Nurse Shannin Pierce to work with the White Pine County School District from March 1<sup>st</sup> through June 5<sup>th</sup>, in the absence of the School Health Nurse. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR JANUARY 2020

Finance Director Elizabeth Frances advised this had been tabled from the last Commission meeting due to the lack of revenues on the January report. She provided a handout showing what the collections coming into DevNet for property taxes are, and how that impacts the ending fund balance for each of the involved funds. She noted that \$2.5 million has been collected that we're unable to transfer into the system at this point; she assured the Board that WPC Treasurer Catherine Bakaric is working on this. Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to approve the monthly financial reports for January 2020 as requested. Commissioner Travis Godon seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/EVALUATION OF ITEMS RECEIVED FROM THE AMERICAN RED CROSS INCLUDING INVENTORY, STORAGE AND COMMITMENTS TO OTHER ENTITIES FOR CERTAIN ITEMS

Director Frances advised that we were working with Emergency Management/American Red Cross on this; she confirmed this is not County property, but instead it belongs to Mr. Mark Bassett. It was noted at this time the Commission isn't concerned with an evaluation, as we haven't received anything. District Attorney Mike Wheable clarified that nothing was done involving the County; it only involved Mr. Mark Bassett. This was just an update for something that was addressed.

**CONSENT AGENDA: DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/RATIFICATION OF CORRESPONDENCE SENT ON BEHALF OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY COMMISSION; APPROVAL OF PAYROLL FOR COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS; APPROVAL OF HR TRANSMITTAL FOR PAYROLL CHANGES; APPROVAL OF BUDGET TRANSFERS WITHIN/BETWEEN FUNCTIONS/PROGRAMS WITHIN A FUND THAT DO NOT INCREASE THE TOTAL APPROPRIATION OF THE FUND**

Commissioner Shane Bybee made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Commissioner Travis Godon advised that at the March 11<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting, RCI will be giving a presentation regarding contracting in an amount of roughly \$30,000. He asked the Board members to think of ways we can interact with the contractor and not have to wait 3 weeks for approval. He also wished to thank Chairman Richard Howe and District Attorney Mike Wheable for doing great work with the housing situation, on behalf of the Board.

Human Resources Director Tim Bunch appreciated the Commissioners for being great about the visits with the Department Heads. He noted those will have a long-term impact and help to build relationships. He thanked the Board for their participation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 11:03 a.m., Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Ian Bullis made the motion; Commissioner Shane Bybee seconded. Motion carried.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
WHITE PINE COUNTY  
STATE OF NEVADA

BY:   
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

  
CLERK OF THE BOARD