

IN A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY COMMISSION AND BUDGET WORKSHOP HELD ON MARCH 11, 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

Maxine Lantz, Victim & Witness Services
Bryan Pyle, Deputy District Attorney
Elizabeth Frances, Finance Director
Lori Romero, Library/Sr. Center Director
Tim Bunch, Human Resources Director
Kristi Rozich, Aquatics Center Director
Desiree Barnson, Social Services Director
Mike Wheable, District Attorney
Scott Henriod, WPC Sheriff
Bill Calderwood, Public Works Director
Brett North, WPC Fire District Chief

Also Present

Jeremy Drew, RCI
Bill Miller
George Chachas, KGTV-10
Cheyenne Gibson, Nevada Census 2020
Denises Castle, Join, Inc.
Rachel Schlick, BEC Environmental
Ross Rivera, Ely Fire Chief
Carol McKenzie, White Pine Com. Choir As'n.
Bill Wilson, White Pine Com. Choir Ass'n.
Holly Wilson, White Pine Community Choir
Geri Wopschall
Dave Tilford
Rudy Herndon
Bruce Eldridge, Library Board Chairman

*Commissioner Ian Bullis arrived at the meeting at 8:44 a.m.

Chairman Richard Howe called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Finance Director Elizabeth Frances led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE/SILENT INVOCATION

This was duly observed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. George Chachas had several concerns; it's on today's agenda to explore a sales tax increase; he's against additional taxes and felt the 1% tax from the swimming pool should be given to the Nutrition Program instead. He next asked about the ethnic minorities, vets, senior citizens, etc.; are we keeping them from purchasing property? He cited the "housing shortage" and claimed the Building Official is the single biggest detriment to growth in White Pine County. He cited the Victims Fund and advised he's still looking for punitive damages he suffered at his 622 High Street property; he pays his taxes and wants equal protection. Next were the unrefunded business licenses; he stated that "we all pay or nobody pays!" He wants the County to do their jobs, and those who don't need to go

out the door. Then was the dog owner licensing repeal; he stated we can't afford to give up the revenue that provides the cost for animal control. He claimed it's the revenues that we need to take care of; the regulations need to remain. He also had concerns on the CEDS items, and the lack of traffic that would remain on Main Street if it was shortened to just 2 lanes. He also had a complaint regarding the lack of a good sound system. Time was called.

Commissioner Travis Godon advised the judge has ruled in our favor on the SNWA case, and that's a big positive move for White Pine County! Commissioner Laurie Carson added that at a recent NACO meeting there was an announcement that other avenues will be explored and SNWA would not be pursuing the pipeline.

NOTICE OF TIMED ITEMS

8:30 A.M. – NATURAL RESOURCES

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ONLY: JEREMY DREW FROM RESOURCE CONCEPTS, INC. (RCI) TO PRESENT ON SERVICES RCI CAN OFFER AS A CONTRACTED ENTITY FOR NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

RCI—Resource Concepts, Inc.—was introduced by way of their Natural Resource Project Manager, Jeremy Drew. Manager Drew provided a brief background of the company; it's an employee-owned firm, in business for 40 years. He cited the list of services they provide: Civil engineering, surveying, GPS, water rights, environmental services, integrated natural resource management, stream restoration and reclamation, fuels management, renewable energy...he advised that "when you hire us you get the whole staff" with over 20 years' experience. He added that when NACO lost their resources manager, RCI worked with them to fill that void. Pertaining specifically to White Pine County's concerns and interests, they've provided comments on the sage grouse amendment; worked on grazing programs for fuels control and technical support. RCI also has experience in helping counties develop Water Resource Plans. Their contract would include a "not to exceed" budget, and they would work strictly within the terms and timeframe of the contract, as he explained. He added they could also attend meetings such as the Water Advisory Committee and PLUAC, and then report back to this Board, using telephonics on our behalf. Manager Drew advised he's worked with Eureka County's Jake Tibbetts often. Commissioner Laurie Carson advised she's the Chairman of the CRM (Coordinated Resources Management Committee), and they had a TRT with the BLM regarding the declining lex numbers and the triggers for those; they're also working with PLUAC, and Mr. Dana Johnson is their contact on that. Since we refused to accept going forward with the Silver State Trail, it was noted that White Pine County is looking to do their own OHV trail; perhaps some guidance would be helpful regarding that. Lastly, Commissioner Carson cited her recent presentation to the Interim Legislative Committee on Public Lands; she had some difficulty locating key items for her presentation, and perhaps he could assist with compiling pertinent information to present at their next meeting; he agreed to help with that, noting that a single work order would suffice in such occasions. Anything much larger would require a task report; this type of authorization could include mapping support for an OHV plan, etc. RCI could even pull someone local that might be pertinent for achieving our needs into the contract, in order to utilize their expertise. That would be more cost effective than hiring someone full time, he noted. Commissioner Travis Godon felt that perhaps Deputy District Attorney Bryan Pyle, who is already familiar with much of the natural resources issues, could be a good contact person who could reach Manager Drew

quickly, and thus provide an open line of communication. The Board thanked Manager Drew for his information and also to Commissioner Godon for reaching out to RCI on this.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO UTILIZE AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000 OUT OF CONTINGENCY TO CONTRACT WITH RCI (SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF AN ACCEPTABLE CONTRACT) FOR SERVICES RENDERED IN THE REMAINDER OF FY2019-2020

Following some discussion of how work orders could be initiated, Manager Drew advised that as long as there is an umbrella contract amount then each request wouldn't require attendance before the Board for approval, which is how they operate with other counties. He agreed it would be easier to have just 1 point of contact. Following discussion, it was agreed Commissioner Laurie Carson could be the point of contact, to be appointed per an agenda item at the next Commission meeting. Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion for approval. Commissioner Travis Godon made a motion to approve contracting with RCI, contingent upon having a natural resources liaison and point of contact as discussed, not to exceed \$25,000, and including a conflict clause as pointed out by Deputy District Attorney Bryan Pyle. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried.

During discussion of the next agenda item, this was reopened.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO INCLUDE AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000 FOR SERVICES RENDERED BY RCI IN THE PRELIMINARY FY 2020-2021 BUDGET

Finance Director Elizabeth Frances advised she had included \$30,000 in next year's budget for this, but can change that amount if the Board so wishes. Commissioner Travis Godon felt \$25,000 would suffice, move that amount into Contingency, and if the services fall under the \$50,000 total it would be more flexible for us and the leftover funds could be utilized elsewhere. Commissioner Travis Godon made a motion to include \$25,000 earmarked in Contingency and if the services fall under the total of \$50,000 it could be utilized elsewhere. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried.

It was pointed out that the contract needs to have an effective date; this was discussed. District Attorney Mike Wheable agreed, and the previous agenda item was reopened. Commissioner Travis Godon amended that the contract would be effective April 1st, and this would be through the end of this fiscal year and then it would be revisited after the final budget. Commissioner Laurie Carson amended her second. Amended motion carried.

9:00 A.M. – BUDGET WORKSHOP

FY2021 BUDGET WORKSHOP/DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/DIRECTION ON FISCAL YEAR BUDGET FOR ANCILLARY SERVICES, COMMUNITIES, REVENUE, PAYROLL AND PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION INVOLVING ALL DEPARTMENTS COVERED DURING THE BUDGET WORKSHOPS TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

Ancillary Services

Library – Finance Director Elizabeth Frances advised this budget hasn't requested any staff changes; there's a full-time Library Director, a Management Assistant, and a Page, the same as for last year. She noted besides the General Fund budget there's also a Library Gift Fund budget. Library Director Lori Romero thanked the Commissioners who had taken the time for visiting with her, and that she found it very helpful. Regarding her budget, she noted there weren't many changes other than

with the Internet. She invited Mr. Bruce Eldridge, Chairman of the Library Board of Trustees, to speak; he noted they are on schedule for next year with respect to fiber optics, and their documents are all in place as the Library is “an anchor institution in a rural community.” It looks very favorable that we will be funded for this project; a provider was selected, and there will be some increased costs, but that will result in a much better Internet service. He noted even with eRate paying a portion of the cost, this will amount to a significant increase. The Board agreed that a high speed Internet is of paramount importance; and Commissioner Shane Bybee noted that “the cost is reasonable when you consider the gain.” Director Romero continued through her budget, noting the Library Gift Fund remains the same, their revenues and expenses balance, and much of this is due to their grants and donations. Mr. Eldridge noted that once the Internet capability is increased, so will traffic into the Library; perhaps more staff and some improvements—such as new carpeting—would be found to be more favorable when that occurs. Director Frances advised that the carpeting is already in the Capital Improvement budget; regarding the increased staffing, she will need to review that.

Airport – Director Frances advised Airport Manager Lance Gale isn’t anticipating much change. Manager Gale noted that there might be some movement regarding the BLM office, but not much he felt. The main hangar needs some door rails fixed; he will bring more information to the next Commission meeting regarding that. There’s nothing scheduled for the Capital Improvement Plan for next year that would require additional funding; still, Director Frances encouraged that we should ensure matching funds would be available for the Federal grants as needed. Commissioner Travis Godon advised that the Airport Advisory Board concurred with this improvement plan at their last meeting.

Agricultural (Cooperative) Extension Office – Finance Director Elizabeth Frances advised that Cooperative Extension Agent Juan Carlos Cervantes was unable to attend today; he is anticipating an increase in Salary/Wages for interns to assist him. However, she noted we’re contracting through UNR and it doesn’t involve Salary/Wages. Travel/Training will be increased to meet the 4-H travel needs; his equipment list appears to be more of a “wish list” and Agent Cervantes doesn’t intend to purchase the equipment next year. He should be here for the next Commissioner meeting to answer any questions the Board might have. While expenditures are higher than revenues, she noted, he does have an adequate fund balance that would make those figures equal.

Senior Center – Senior Center Administrator Lori Romero noted there will be a retirement next year that Director Frances has accounted for in this budget; it’s a very tight budget, and she noted “we do our best” to run “a tight ship.” The drivers run only 15 hours/week and there are no benefits for those; she noted that’s a challenge because while the revenues don’t increase, the expenses such as food costs, fuel, etc. do continue to rise. Director Frances noted the revenues coming in won’t be the final figures until March 25th, so these could change; also, the grant funds fluctuate. There will be some movement in the upcoming months due to the renovation at the Senior Center; she noted we need to be flexible to ensure the program goes forward smoothly. Most the movement will involve the commodities, but Maintenance will also be tapped to help us with this. In reply to a query from the Board, there are currently 55 inhouse and 65 homebound that the senior center serves.

Economic Development – Director Frances explained there has been a change here; ½ is through Emergency Management and the other ½ is for a grant writer. The emergency grant isn’t

enough to support a full time person; she is requesting this Emergency Management person be in the General Fund for $\frac{3}{4}$ plus $\frac{1}{4}$ grant writing, as she explained. There is some Travel/Training included for CDBG presentation and training, which are required for the grant; there is also SNPLMA training required. There is funding for 1 person to travel until the grant writer is up to speed; she noted 2 people may be needed, as one could be supportive to the new person. Commissioner Shane Bybee is liaison to NNRDA, but she hasn't seen an increase from them. Commissioner Bybee report there has been no discussion of increases at this point in time. Regarding the request pertaining to the Main Street project, there is \$15,000 in there for next year; that remains fairly status quo. Commissioner Ian Bullis would like to explore the costs to be proactive in bringing out-of-state companies here, such as manufacturing operations, etc., which would increase our industrial base. Chairman Richard Howe voiced his opposition against the Main Street project, and explained his reasoning is because we're a government agency and he felt we're in conflict with providing them funds annually. While he does applaud their efforts he voted against this in the past, and that's still his opinion. Commissioner Travis Godon noted that if he will support this, he's still unhappy with the signs not being visible. Commissioner Ian Bullis supports the concept, but he emphasized it needs to be effective. Commissioner Laurie Carson wants to see this on the next agenda, and perhaps a way to reduce the \$15,000 could be discussed.

Natural Resources – Director Frances noted the Salary here remains the same; it's for a Water Advisory Committee/PLUAC Secretary for 24 meetings, with related fringe benefits. This would include 4 quarterly WAC meeting trips plus \$7,500 in dues to the CRNWA and \$3,000 for Water Resources planning, which could be used for permitting or other uses as well. This also includes Contract Services with the Advocates for Community Environment, \$125,000 for our Water Attorney Simeon Herskovits, as she continued to note. Commissioner Shane Bybee commented that SNWA's resources are vast and they have an unrealistic focus; he "can't believe they'll just roll over" in this issue.

Tri-County – Finance Director Elizabeth Frances noted this has items carried forward from last year. They didn't come on board until October 1st, and so the handout she provided refers to what they're proposing for the next year; this will reflect the change from being $\frac{3}{4}$ of the year to a full year, as she explained. Commissioner Shane Bybee noted their proposal hasn't been approved yet by Tri-County.

Communities

Ruth Town – Director Frances advised there are not many changes historically, other than a new slide being requested for a playground. Expenses will be over revenues, but they do have the funding to support that request. Updated figures will be available after March 25th, she noted.

Lund Town – Director Frances noted ideas of increasing their revenues had been discussed at their last town council meeting. Ideas such as annexing their township—which she noted wouldn't help them very much—were discussed. Their major project would be sealing the roads next year in the Lund area, to be accomplished by the Road Dept. A slight increase to Operating Supplies and Expenses was the only increase of note. Chairman Richard Howe pointed out that yesterday's report from Road Dept. Supervisor Martin Troutt regarding the roadwork in that area would help them out quite a lot. Commissioner Ian Bullis asked about the possibility of getting speed trailers out there, since people are traveling so fast through the town that the NHP is having a hard time keeping

up with the problem. Commissioner Shane Bybee agreed that Highway 318 has a really high amount of travel. There followed a discussion of how road improvements take time because people don't see the results immediately. It was noted some education to correct misconceptions of how those improvements actually depend on such things as the weather, road conditions, etc. and the available means to help slow the traffic. WPC Sheriff Scott Henriod advised that the Sheriff's Dept. stretches their resources to try and provide them to the outlying communities.

McGill Town – Director Frances advised she had met with the town council to assist them with updating their budget. Most of their figures are stable; some fall under Capital Improvements. They are looking to finish up the Kinnear Library, so that amount will be decreasing. There will be security cams in and around the Parks and at the Library to help prevent vandalism; those are included in this budget. They also continue to work on streetlight upgrades, and getting more energy-efficient lights in place.

Revenues, Payroll and Balancing

General Fund Revenue – Director Frances reiterated revenue figures will be available on March 25th from the State. She noted we do have an idea on how our current resources could assist us through possible mine closures.

Payroll – She noted the handout shows the basis of her calculations and the insurance, etc. as other factors, which are estimated at this time.

New Additions Summary – This includes the new positions and increases requested to date, based on the changes the Board has made so far. She advised she is flexible with this pending further discussions on the budget.

Finance Strategic Planning Committee – Finance Director Elizabeth Frances noted this report is getting outdated; much of the items in there have been completed. She noted this is probably the last year this will show up in the budget.

Recommendations – Director Frances cited the Central Services allocation and insurance policies between the General Fund and special revenue funds (such as for Human Resources, IT, etc.) based on staff, the number of computers, etc. She noted the District Attorney's Office was also added in; she will bring this back after the March 25th meeting. She explained that formulas change every time the figures change. Commissioner Travis Godon noted the seasonal and contract changes are good for when we need people, but we still have to keep in mind that everyone we hire in the future might have to be let go. Chairman Richard Howe agreed and added that regarding the new positions, if the revenues drop and we do have to let them go, this had happened just a couple of years ago and jobs had to be cut. He doesn't wish to repeat that. Commissioner Laurie Carson agreed that when we were put in the severe financial emergency status by the State and we were in probation for several years after that, some hard decisions had to be made. She noted that we might have to make some hard decisions in the future as well.

Preliminary Discussions to Balance the Budget – It was noted some of this had already been discussed. Commissioner Ian Bullis wants to have a one-time request list versus ongoing budgetary operational increases; Director Frances will provide that to the Board.

9:30 A.M. – PROPOSED ORDINANCES 508 & 509

DISCUSSION/FOURTH READING/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: THE WHITE PINE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WILL CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 508, BILL 01.22.2020, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 8.04 OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY CODE, REPEALING THE EXISTING REGULATION THAT A DOG OWNER MUST LICENSE THE ANIMAL

Chairman Richard Howe noted we've held three discussions on this Ordinance already. Commissioner Shane Bybee will abstain from this as his fiancé is on the Animal Control Board. Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion for approval. Commissioner Travis Godon made a motion to approve Ordinance 508; Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion died as the vote was 2:2 and there was a lack of majority, with Commissioner Bybee abstaining.

PUBLIC HEARING: DISCUSSION/SECOND READING/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: THE WHITE PINE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WILL TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 509, BILL 02.12.2020, AMENDING CHAPTER 2.32 OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY CODE CLARIFYING THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION'S LACK OF AUTHORITY TO DISPOSE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY; DEFINING "APPROPRIATE GOVERNING BODY"; SPECIFYING APPEAL PROCEDURE

District Attorney Mike Wheable advised this had been discussed previously; this Ordinance will ensure the RPC wouldn't be able to abandon an alleyway and encumber the rights of the County and/or the City. He continued that it's important that the governments themselves—whether the County or the City—would have the authority alone to accomplish these things. Chairman Richard Howe asked for public comment. Mr. George Chachas agreed that any such giveaways should be done by the elected governmental bodies, not by an appointed board. Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to approve. Commissioner Shane Bybee made a motion to approve Ordinance 509 as requested. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried.

At 10:30 a.m., Chairman Richard Howe recessed the regular County Commission meeting and opened the Fire Commission meeting. At 11:12 a.m., Chairman Richard Howe adjourned the Fire Commission meeting and reconvened the regular County Commission meeting.

11:00 A.M. – RURAL DESERT SOUTHWEST BROWNFIELDS COALITION DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION OF THE STATUS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND POTENTIAL OF THE RURAL DESERT SOUTHWEST BROWNFIELDS COALITION (RDSBC) THROUGHOUT WHITE PINE COUNTY – DISCUSSION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL BROWNFIELDS PROJECTS

Nye County Public Information Officer Arnold Knightly and BEC Environmental, Inc.'s Rachel Schlick provided a Power Point presentation to the Board. Ms. Schlick explained the definition of Brownfields to the assemblage, as being any real property that is contaminated by such items as asbestos, lead-based paint, fuel, and other such types. The coalition was formed in 2011, and White Pine County was one of their founding members, she noted. \$3 million in grants has been awarded to the coalition since its inception. Ms. Schlick focused on the first non-governmental Brownfields

project, which is the Centennial Fine Arts building on Aultman Street. She continued that their program can reimburse travel costs for educational conference attendance, such as the NACO Conference this November. Also, the more involved you are in the program, the greater the program is. In reply to a query from Chairman Richard Howe, she advised of the process: Prospective purchasers bring up their property requests to Deputy District Attorney Bryan Pyle, the contact here in White Pine County, and then they go forward. She advised that former Nye County Commissioner Joni Eastley had led this grant since the inception of the program. There are many people working hard on monitoring requirements such as NEPA, etc., for all the Brownfields projects in Nevada's counties. Officer Knightly advised they are here today to request funding to help offset the costs for Nye County; the last time this was done was in 2011.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF THE REQUEST FOR GRANT FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEXT OPEN SOLICITATION OF A BROWNFIELDS COALITION ASSESSMENT GRANT APPLICATION

Nye County's Public Information Officer Arnold Knightly continued their narrative: Ms. Lorine Dellinger wanted to be here but was out of town today, he is here in her place. He explained that Nye County oversees and facilitates the grants. The coalition is rural, but growing in stature; it's a unique program in the United States. They are requesting \$4,000 in grant funding assistance, and by this Commission authorizing that in advance it will maximize the time spent in the coalition's assessment. Chairman Richard Howe felt this would be a worthwhile expense. She asked if this would be during this fiscal year, or the next; it was clarified to be in the next. Director Frances felt if this Board approves the request it could be placed in the Economic Development budget, which is where we had carried the Brownsfield Coalition in the past. Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to approve. Commissioner Travis Godon made a motion to approve the request for grant funding assistance in the amount of \$4,000 for the Brownfields Coalition as requested, placing it in the Economic Development budget a recommended by the Finance Director. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried.

At 11:30 a.m., Chairman Richard Howe recessed the regular Commission meeting and gave the gavel over to WPC Sheriff Scott Henriod, Chairman of the County Liquor Board. At 11:40 a.m., Chairman Scott Henriod adjourned the Liquor Board meeting and relinquished the gavel to County Commission Chairman Richard Howe, who reconvened the regular Commission meeting.

ITEMS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

COUNTY COMMISSION

RICHARD HOWE, CHAIRMAN

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR JOIN, INC. IN SUPPORT OF THEIR APPLICATION TO NEVADAWORKS TO RECEIVE FUNDING FOR ADULT, DISLOCATED WORKER, AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH PROGRAMS

Chairman Richard Howe noted he's the liaison to NevadaWorks. CEO of JOIN, Inc. Denise Castle is here today; she thanked the Board for the opportunity to present. She provided a draft letter

that JOIN is coming upon a competitive RFP. She noted they serve White Pine County in putting adults, disabled workers and youth in training; all costs are covered through various organizations. She advised this will be an opportunity for the County to show their support. CEO Castle thanked Chairman Richard for being a strong representative on the NevadaWorks board, and for all the ongoing support from the County Commissioners. Following brief discussion, Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to approve. Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to approve the letter of support for JOIN, Inc. in support of their application to NevadaWorks to receive funding as requested. Commissioner Travis Godon seconded. Motion carried.

LAURIE L. CARSON, COMMISSIONER

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/RATIFICATION OF THE PRESENTATION GIVEN AT THE MARCH 3RD PUBLIC LANDS MEETING IN CALIENTE

Commissioner Laurie Carson advised this is self-explanatory, and asked if there were any questions; there were none. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to ratify the presentation given at the Public Lands meeting in Caliente on March 3rd, as requested. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

MIKE WHEABLE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION TO MUTUALLY TERMINATE THE 3RD AND FINAL YEAR OF THE COUNTY'S WATER RIGHT AGREEMENT WITH KGHM ROBINSON MINE WITH RECEIPT OF CONSIDERATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000 FROM KGHM ROBINSON FOR ITS EARLY TERMINATION

District Attorney Mike Wheable advised he had been contacted by Robinson Mine's Frederick Partey regarding this; it's a 3-year agreement, with the Mine paying White Pine County \$50,000 to tie up most of our County's water rights. They file those with the State, and that alone costs them over \$100,000 annually. It was clarified that for the past 2 years they had dewatered utilizing their own water rights, so they didn't have to utilize ours. He noted they "are a good partner" and they're asking to terminate the current contract. To be fair they are asking if they could pay us just \$10,000 in lieu of their not needing our water rights any further. Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion for approval. Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to mutually terminate the 3rd and final year of the County's water right agreement with KGHM Robinson Mine with consideration of \$10,000 from KGHM for its early termination of the agreement. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO MODIFY AND/OR AMEND THE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH MED-X FOR THE LEASED PORTION OF FIRE STATION #1 SO MED-X CAN MAKE A TENANT IMPROVEMENT TO THE FIRE ADMIN BUILDING AT THEIR OWN COST, TO ADD A DIVIDER WALL IN THE LARGE UPSTAIRS BEDROOM FOR THE PURPOSE OF CREATING A SEPARATE SLEEPING BERTH - UPON RETURN OF THE LEASED SPACE AT TERMINATION OF THE CONTRACT, MED-X TO REMOVE THE

DIVIDER WALL AT THEIR OWN COSTS, AND MAKE REPAIRS TO THE ROOM AS IN ORIGINAL CONDITION OR TO LEAVE WALL IN PLACE WITH COUNTY'S CONSENT

D.A. Wheable advised this room is on the second story of the EOC; it was originally used as a weight room by our firefighters, and it's the perfect size to divide in half as proposed. MedX AirOne has requested to hire a contractor; as long as everything is patched and painted once they move out of the building, or even if the Board wishes to leave the room divided, they are requesting this be done. It was emphasized that the County is trying to be a good landlord by allowing this. Commissioner Travis Godon made a motion to modify/amend the lease agreement with MedX AirOne for the leased portion of Fire Station #1 in order to make a tenant improvement as requested, at their own costs, and make repairs to the room as needed to leave in its original condition or leave the wall in place, with the County's consent. Commissioner Shane Bybee seconded. Motion carried.

NICHOLE BALDWIN, COUNTY CLERK

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO HOLD A SPECIAL COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING ON JUNE 19, 2020 TO APPROVE THE CANVASS OF THE VOTES FROM THE JUNE 9, 2020 PRIMARY ELECTION

WPC Clerk Nichole Baldwin advised this is being requested due to changes in the law regarding the tabulation of votes during an Election; the results are no longer reported on Election night, as ballots will continue to be received for 7 days following the day of Election. She added they must be postmarked by Election day in order to be counted. She is allowed this time in order to do her canvass; she's requesting the maximum amount of time to prepare that and to hold this special meeting at 1:00 p.m. on that day. Following discussion, Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion for approval. Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to approve holding a special Commission meeting on June 19, 2020 at 1:00 p.m., to approve the canvass of the votes from the June 9, 2020 Primary Election as requested. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF ANNUAL EVALUATION FROM TOWN COUNCILS AND ADVISORY BOARDS IN WHITE PINE COUNTY:

- Ag. Dist. 13/Fair & Rodeo Board
- Airport Advisory Board
- Golf Advisory Board
- Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
- Library Board of Trustees
- McGill Town Council
- Public Lands Users Advisory Committee (PLUAC)
- Ruth Town Council
- Water Advisory Committee (WAC)

WPC Clerk Nichole Baldwin advised these boards are required to prepare these reports, which show their successes and failures over the past year, plus what they will need in their budgets for the coming year. She requested these all be included in one motion; the Board agreed. Chairman Richard Howe read the list and entertained a motion to approve. Commissioner Travis Godon made a motion

to approve the list of town councils and advisory boards in White Pine County who contributed their evaluations. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF THE REQUESTS FOR RESIGNATION FROM DESIREE BARNSON AND MATTIE JENSEN FROM LEPC

Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion for approval. Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to approve the requests for resignation from Desiree Barnson and Mattie Jensen from LEPC. Commissioner Shane Bybee seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF THE REQUESTS FOR RESIGNATION FROM SHANNIN PIERCE AND BERNADETTE SENA FROM LEPC

Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to approve. Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to approve the requests for resignation of Shannin Pierce and Bernadette Sena from LEPC as requested. Commissioner Travis Godon seconded. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

KRISTY ROZICH, AQUATIC CENTER DIRECTOR

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO POST FOR THE POSITION OF MCGILL POOL MANAGER FOR THE SUMMER OF 2020

Aquatic Center Director Kristy Rozich advised that she's looking for someone fresh, as all the others from the past didn't wish to continue forward. Commissioner Laurie Carson asked about exit interviews; Director Rozich advised that Human Resources Director Tim Bunch takes care of those. Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to post for the position of McGill Pool Manager for the Summer of 2020 as requested. Commissioner Travis Godon seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO KEEP MCGILL POOL OPEN ON THE 18TH, 19TH, AND 20TH OF SEPTEMBER, 2020 FOR A MUSICAL EVENT FUNDRAISER PUT ON BY RUDY HERNDON TO RAISE MONEY FOR MCGILL TOWNSHIP

Director Rozich advised Mr. Rudy Herndon had approached her about this and they had discussed the possibility. While she isn't fully encouraging this, she noted that we do want to support McGill as much as possible. This would take place after the swimming season has closed, the pool is shut down, and winterized; the water is too cold by that time, in September. There is also a safety concern regarding alcohol, which needs to be monitored. She continued that she would have to shut down the Aquatic Center as it's unknown how many people would be expected to attend, and there are Lifeguard requirements which she noted for the Board. Chairman Richard Howe asked if they could just use the Park, and not the pool; Director Rozich advised Mr. Herndon wanted to have both activities available. Commissioner Laurie Carson noted the Park would host a concert of 3 live bands. Everything would be done in the Park but having the pool open would allow for family use as well. She felt it's a great idea, though, and encouraged him to discuss this with her for the following year at a more appropriate time; she noted they close on Labor Day. However, it was also noted that Mr. Herndon is willing to pay for all the staff and time needed to make this happen. Commissioner Shane Bybee pointed out that school would be in session as well; and he recalled shoveling snow in September in the past. During the discussion, Commissioner Laurie Carson advised she had talked with a property owner downstream who uses the water from McGill Pool. It was felt Mr. Herndon should discuss this with the downstream rancher, as well as Public Works Director Bill Calderwood,

and to explore if this could be made to work. This will be tabled until the next meeting, and Mr. Herndon will be invited here to answer questions. Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to table. Commissioner Travis Godon made a motion to table this agenda item; Commissioner Shane Bybee seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ONLY ABOUT PRICING AND MEMBERSHIPS AT THE AQUATIC CENTER

Aquatic Center Director Kristy Rozich compared other aquatic centers in the State that are similar to our size facility; she is looking for something to accommodate the seniors. She noted they were getting subsidized from AARP for the difference in the cost, and they don't get that anymore. The cost is \$13/person, it was noted, and about 20 people have taken advantage of this kind of membership. Finance Director Elizabeth Frances noted we're on the low end of prices; Director Rozich felt perhaps we should simplify our options instead of creating more. In reply to a query from Chairman Richard Howe, she didn't feel she would lose participants if things remain status quo. She will return to the Board in early April to see where they are.

**LORI ROMERO, LIBRARY DIRECTOR/SENIOR 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**

Library Director Lori Romero advised this is some funding that would allow starting the digital formatting of the Ely Times; she noted they could put 20 years into that project currently, but with this grant they could add another 10 years. Following brief discussion, Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to approve. Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to accept the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership grant for \$1,500 to be used towards the newspaper preservation online project, with the dollar-for-dollar match being covered by the Director's salary. Commissioner Travis Godon seconded. Motion carried.

**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**

Sr. Center Administrator Lori Romero provided a handout showing meals served and delivered from October 1, 2019 through February 28, 2020. She first noted that when the State came in in 2005, she was told there were a couple of ways to make the Nutrition Program stable; one was to obtain more revenues. The handout indicated 4,441 meals served at the Center for \$9.17/meal, which includes labor, utilities and the food cost. She noted they don't monitor who pays or who doesn't, as there are some people who just can't afford to pay. The homebound meals served were 6,604, also costing \$9.17/meal. Taking all the figures into account, including the various fundraisers that were held, she noted they aren't covering the costs of the meals at this point in time. She wants to ensure this program gets the proper funding in order to continue; a waiting list may be one direction they will have to go. Chairman Richard Howe advised he takes meals there, he sees all this, and the eating room is packed daily. If this is put on the ballot, the Senior Center will be getting some funding, but he does share her concern that there may be a new Commission on board; and, "taxes are taxes." In his

opinion, he's good with the ballot question. Commissioner Travis Godon recommended the Board could pass an Ordinance to secure the funding; if a future Commission doesn't wish to continue it, they would have to go through the process to get it off. He felt we could work with the District Attorney's office to get this going; another option he suggested was to increase the amount of the donation, or a combination of both. He's personally against the tax just because it IS another tax; he would support other methods to fix this. Commissioner Ian Bullis noted that from the figures, roughly 80% of the people are paying for the meals when they go in, and 60% are paying for the homebound meals. He agreed that an Ordinance should be passed, and that the Senior Center just wants some stability. Commissioners Shane Bybee and Laurie Carson agreed the Senior Center is a very high priority. Finance Director Elizabeth Frances cautioned that we should look carefully at the wording of a ballot question; she agreed we could work with the District Attorney on an Ordinance for this instead.

DESIREE BARNSON, SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/RATIFICATION OF THE ADSD GRANT APPLICATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000 WITH A REQUIRED MATCH OF \$3,750 TO COME OUT OF DIRECTOR'S WAGES

Social Services Director Desiree Barnson advised this grant is used as a match to operate the Ely Bus. Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to ratify the ADSD grant for \$25,000 with the required match of \$3,750 to come out of the Director's wages, as requested. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/RATIFICATION OF THE 50/50 MATCH PROGRAM CONTRACT WITH THE STATE OF NEVADA

Director Barnson noted that this 50/50 match program pays for our people in the White Pine County Care Centers. Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to ratify the 50/50 match program contract with the State as requested. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF THE AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION, RESOLUTION 2020-13, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF THE PROPOSAL WITH NDOT FOR GRANTS THROUGH USDOT FTA FOR ELY BUS

Director Barnson cited Resolution 2020-13, an authorizing resolution, which is what she needs in order to write her grants for the Ely Bus. Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to approve. Commissioner Shane Bybee made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-13 as requested. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried.

ELIZABETH FRANCES, FINANCE DIRECTOR

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2020-11 TO UTILIZE \$34,000 FROM GENERAL FUND CONTINGENCY TO COVER THE PURCHASE OF WHITE PINE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT'S 2019 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED (VIN 7291) AS APPROVED AT THE FEBRUARY 12, 2020 COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

Finance Director Elizabeth Frances advised that this resolution will cover the purchase of the 2019 Jeep Wrangler for the Fire Protection District, as approved during the February 12, 2020 Commission meeting. Commissioner Travis Godon made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-11 as requested. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2020-12 TO UTILIZE \$20,000 FROM GENERAL FUND CONTINGENCY TO COVER THE ESTIMATED FISCAL YEAR 2020 PORTION OF THE INA CONSULTING GROUP, LLC ENGAGEMENT FOR ASSISTANCE WITH DEBT SERVICE REQUIREMENTS ON THE JUSTICE CENTER PROJECT AS APPROVED AT THE FEBRUARY 12, 2020 COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

Following brief discussion, Commissioner Travis Godon made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-12 as requested and approved during the February 12, 2020 Commission meeting. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried.

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

Director Frances cited the backup materials and asked if there were any questions; there were none. Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to approve. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to approve the monthly financial reports for February 2020 as requested. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/DISCUSSION OF ITEMS RELATED TO THE COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDs) FOR WHITE PINE COUNTY INCLUDING THE DRAFTED DOCUMENT RECEIVED FROM LOUISE TORRES OF THE USDA AND GOALS (REQUIRING PRIORITIZATION) AND OTHER IDEAS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSION TO ENSURE THE DOCUMENT IS REFLECTIVE OF THE COUNTY'S OVERALL ANTICIPATED STRATEGIES FOR THE NEXT FIVE (5) YEARS

Director Frances emphasized this is only a draft; the Board may amend, change things, and add things to it. Along with the outdoor recreation/tour plan and revitalization of downtown, she listed a few items not addressed by the Commission. She noted the hemp farm promotion for industry could be a part of the action plan to recruit and retain business; and a separate site 40-50 miles away from town could be utilized for more housing, to assist with our housing shortage. She asked the Board for assistance in prioritizing this list. Commissioner Travis Godon felt housing should be first, and then the outdoor recreation and tour plan (specifically horse trails and Ward Mountain). Commissioner Laurie Carson felt infrastructure should be first, and broadband should be included with that; and then economic development agencies to identify and recruit new business. Chairman Richard Howe wants the hemp farm near the top of the list, after the economic development. Commissioner Ian Bullis suggested keeping everything in order after the top 3 items. Commissioner Godon felt we could keep the Water Plan in there, but change the wording as we already have a Water Plan. Commissioner Travis Godon made a motion to approve this draft per today's discussion. However, Commissioner Shane Bybee wasn't happy with the language pertaining to education; the Board agreed, and wording will be changed. Commissioner Travis Godon amended his motion to include Commissioner Bybee's concern over the education wording. 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 \$149,600.00

Director Frances asked District Attorney Mike Wheable for some direction on this; while there is an “amount not to exceed” in there, they are only providing half-time supervision over the construction project, which the granting agency wasn’t comfortable with. For a full-time person, she did the figures and it would be an additional \$38,600; therefore, we could award the contract with that additional amount. She wondered if the Regional Transportation Commission would be willing to cover that; Deputy District Attorney Bryan Pyle advised it could be awarded, contingent upon the additional amount being funded by the RTC. Another option he noted was that we could provide one of our staff to supervise. This brought up another concern; this would be during the summer, when Maintenance is very busy. It should be an employee with pertinent knowledge, per the grant requirements. Following brief discussion, Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to approve. Commissioner Travis Godon made a motion to approve this contract contingent upon the \$149,000 not to be exceed and the RTC to approve the needed \$38,600 to cover this full time person. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried.

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 Laurie Carson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; Commissioner Shane Bybee seconded. Motion carried.

NOTICE OF UNTIMED ITEMS

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL/REQUEST APPROVAL FOR GRANT APPLICATION TO THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SERVICES- TRAINING-OFFICERS-PROSECUTORS-(STOP) FUNDS FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE VICTIM/WITNESS SERVICES PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,000 WITH A REQUIRED MATCH OF 25%

Victim & Witness Services’ Maxine Lantz explained this is an ongoing grant, which started in 2002; she noted there was a typo in the agenda item, that the amount should read \$4,000. She explained this covers training examiners and deputies for different services that don’t fall under the other grants which her office operates within. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to approve the grant application to the Office of the Attorney General funds to continue the Victim/Witness services program with a required match of 25%, not to exceed \$4,000. Commissioner Shane Bybee seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE FOLLOWING COUNTY COMMISSION MEETINGS:

- February 12
- February 26

Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to approve the February 12th and February 26th Commission meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

WBR Hospital CEO Matt Walker had emailed a comment to the Board, which was presented by Deputy District Attorney Bryan Pyle. He notified that the Hospital and others need to be prepared for the COVID-19 virus outbreak by staying at home. The Hospital's admitting staff will be asking questions as prepared by the CDC; if a patient is identified as high risk, they would be tested and quarantined. If they are sick enough they will be isolated. It was noted the numbers on the virus are constantly changing, and stats were showing 500 in the U.S. with 16 deaths, of which 15 were in Washington State from a long-term care facility. It was noted the others were elderly. 80% of cases were mild worldwide, and only 2% were under the age of 18. The virus, generally, is not significant at this point in time for the majority of the population.

Human Resources Director Tim Bunch advised the certification for his grants are now completed and all criteria have been fulfilled, for the Board's information. LEPC has elected WPDF Chief Brett North as their Chairman, and Ely City Fire Chief Ross Rivera as Co-Chairman for LEPC. He added that the deadline for Department Head evaluations is just 34 days out.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:14 p.m., Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Shane Bybee made the motion; Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF WHITE PINE
STATE OF NEVADA

BY: 
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:


WPC CLERK OF THE BOARD