

IN A SPECIAL EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY COMMISSION HELD ON MARCH 16, 2020 IN THE COUNTY LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM

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

Brett North, WPCD Fire Chief
Jennifer Farnworth, IT Specialist
Mike Wheable, District Attorney
Kristy Rozich, Aquatic Center Director
Bill Calderwood, Public Works Director
Tim Bunch, Human Resources Director
Bryan Pyle, Deputy District Attorney
Elizabeth Frances, Finance Director

Also Present

Geri Wopschall
George Chachas, KGTV-10
Kay McMurray, Ely Times

Chairman Richard Howe called this Emergency Special meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. District Attorney Mike Wheable led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE/SILENT INVOCATION

This was duly observed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. George Chachas reiterated his request for a copy of the resignation letter from the former Emergency Manager Director. He asked if the Community Choir building had a permit for work being done there; if so, why can't he get one? He cited the Building Inspector being a problem; he also feels he's being punished for not receiving things he's asked for. Among those things is a refund for the Business License he had paid for, and the damage that occurred on his property at 622 High Street (he added he'd even turned the people in for that damage). He also asked if appraisals had been done for the 13-14 lots recently advertised by the County. He noted other people have had to pay fair market value for their land and hookup fees; further, he noted a waiver is being requested for those, and other people couldn't waive their fees. He felt the Board should live by the same rules and regulations they are setting; he charged selective enforcement and blatant discrimination by the Building Inspector. He asked about the nepotism regarding Commissioner Shane Bybee and the hiring of his daughter recently by the County, and cited his own family and that of former Commissioner Julio Costello having to live by the rules. Time was called.

Human Resources Manager Tim Bunch cited the latest message from the Governor to the State of Nevada regarding the Fire Marshall reducing the amount of individuals in a premises by 50%. That brought up his concern regarding the County's Aquatic Center. Since the School District has closed the schools, he felt there will be a big influx in the pool's attendance; many parents will be allowing their kids to go there. He also has a serious concern about other Senior Centers closing across the State, and how that would impact us.

District Attorney Mike Wheable advised there will be a meeting at the EOC at 2:00 p.m. this afternoon with executive stakeholders to begin the planning process to answer these and other concerns. He continued the organization would be set up going forward, and how best to keep the public informed. He emphasized this meeting is not open to the public as it's not required to be; however, reports will be made to the media following the meeting and others as deemed necessary. He added that sometimes you can't wait for a Commission meeting to happen, so some decisions could be made at a Department Head level and come back to this Board for ratification.

Finance Director Elizabeth Frances advised the County has a Coronavirus webpage out there containing official links to information and updates on the virus. Instead of relying on misinformation which may be out in the public arena, she highly recommended the public visit that webpage as it contains official information.

Aquatic Center Director Kristy Rozich noted many people have already approached her. She suggested that the pool remain open for general use only; all classes, open swim and other activities will be cancelled. She felt keeping the pool open for therapy and lap swim would be the only activities in the pool during this time. D.A. Wheable felt she could make those changes and then come back to report to the Commission at a later date.

In reply to a query from Chairman Richard Howe regarding LEPC's presence at today's 2:00 p.m. meeting, D.A. Wheable advised the LEPC board wouldn't be present but their Chairman and Vice-Chairman are invited, as well as EMS and others. The Commission will be kept apprised regarding any decisions that will be made; it was noted Chairman Richard Howe and Commissioner Laurie Carson will be attending.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO APPOINT BRETT NORTH AS THE INTERIM EMERGENCY MANAGER DUE TO THE DECLARATION OF A NATIONAL EMERGENCY CONCERNING COVID-19

Chairman Richard Howe noted this had been acted upon during the last meeting of the Fire Commission on March 11th; it is required that this be on the agenda for the County Commission to consider as well. District Attorney Mike Wheable confirmed this. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to appoint Brett North as the Interim Emergency Manager due to the declaration of a National Emergency concerning COVID-19 as requested. Commissioner Travis Godon seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO CONSIDER COMPENATION DETERMINATION FOR INTERIM POSITION AS THE EMERGENCY MANAGER (6 MONTHS)

Human Resources Director Tim Bunch cited the backup materials provided on this during the last Fire Commission meeting. WPCFD Chief Brett North is currently at Step 1, \$61,800, and for the Emergency Services Director combined with the Fire Chief the amount at Step 1 would be \$81,370. Director Bunch advised these figures are in keeping with the pre-existing pay scale. Chairman Richard

Howe noted that when former Fire Chief Brett Waters was given dual duties it was very similar, so we are in line with what was done before. He felt this would be adequate for the combined position. Commissioner Shane Bybee asked Fire Chief North if he was okay with this; Chief North responded in the affirmative, especially for the 6 months' duration. Commissioner Travis Godon made a motion to approve the compensation for WPCFD Chief Brett Waters to include Interim Position as the Emergency Manager for 6 months, as requested. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried. Chairman Howe noted that in 6 months this Board would revisit this with Chief North.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Human Resources Director Tim Bunch advised the County Public Health Office had been contacted and informed they must close their offices; they would only be working with those people they are currently treating. The State's Administrative Assistants have been asked to go back home. The status of County Administrative Assistant Bernadett Sena is unknown at this time, but that could very well be discussed during this afternoon's EOC meeting.

Chairman Richard Howe noted that from statements made at the Federal level by President Donald Trump and the State level by Governor Steven Sisolak, he asked what should be done regarding the Senior Center lunch today. District Attorney Mike Wheable advised things could remain status quo for today, the seniors would have their lunches as usual today; things may be adjusted later on. Commissioner Laurie Carson advised the County has yet to declare their intention; D.A. Wheable agreed, and noted there are resources that can be discussed this afternoon. Any decisions made at the EOC meeting this afternoon will be reflected in the next regular Commission meeting's agenda.

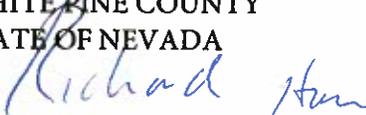
Commissioner Travis Godon wished to thank WPCFD Chief Brett North for stepping up to fill this role for the County.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:30 a.m., Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ian Bullis made the motion; Commissioner Travis Godon seconded. Motion carried.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WHITE PINE COUNTY
STATE OF NEVADA

BY:



CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:



WPC CLERK OF THE BOARD