

IN A MEETING OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY COMMISSION HELD ON MARCH 25, 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

- Jennifer Farnworth, IT Specialist
- Mike Johnson, IT Specialist
- Elizabeth Frances, Finance Director
- Scott Henriod, WPC Sheriff
- Dr. David Byun, County Board of Health Chairman
- Bill Calderwood, Public Works Director
- Mike Wheable, District Attorney
- Tim Bunch, Human Resources Director
- Lance Gale, Airport Manager
- Desiree Barnson, Social Services Director

Also Present

- George Chachas, George Town Media
- Caroline McIntosh, Main Street Committee
- Kyle Horvath, Tourism & Rec. Board Dir.
- Nathan Robertson, Mayor of Ely
- Matt Walker, WBR Hospital CEO
- Ann Kellogg (By Telephonics)

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Chairman Richard Howe called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. District Attorney Mike Wheable led the Pledge of Allegiance. Finance Director Elizabeth Frances explained the process to the people calling in.

MOMENT OF SILENCE/SILENT INVOCATION

This was duly observed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Caroline McIntosh, Main Street Committee, referred to the timed agenda item on the Main Street Committee update. She advised that Tourism & Recreation Board Director Kyle Horvath will make that presentation. She appreciated the Board’s support, and is very proud of all our accomplishments to date and the plans for the future.

Mr. George Chachas complimented the Commission on the nice sound system. He commented on items both on today’s agenda as well as other concerns, beginning with the item regarding eliminating fees at the Golf Course for golfers over age 90. He found that insulting; he’s been trying to get a building permit for a long time now! He asked why not waive fees for people over 70 instead. He also commented on the Community Choir building, noting the black sheeting “looks really great.” He asked if the Building Inspector ever got back from Eureka with his wife in a County vehicle, from attending an event in 2019. He wants to halt construction for the new Courthouse Jail, as the economy looks rocky right now. He added that the City, County, State and Federal revenues won’t be coming in as hoped since they will be decreasing; the COVID-19 virus is affecting all areas, all the time. He noted construction works may be coming in from affected states, such as from California,

and yet Lake Tahoe is telling people to stay home. He cited a request he made on February 26<sup>th</sup> asking for a copy of the resignation of our prior Emergency Management Director; it wasn't in the meeting packet and he still hasn't received a copy. He suggested some embezzlement going on at the railroad, noting they don't hold their meetings under the OML and yet have received over \$240,000 from taxes such as the room tax. White Pine County citizens have no idea how that money is being spent! He also cited Ms. Carol McKenzie's lack of ADA compliance in Lund but time was called.

At 9:11 a.m., Chairman Richard Howe recessed the regular Commission meeting and opened the Special Fire Commission meeting. At 9:30 a.m., Chairman Richard Howe adjourned the Special meeting of the Fire Commission to reconvene the regular County Commission meeting.

#### 9:30 A.M. – PROPOSED ORDINANCE 510

DISCUSSION/FIRST READING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 510, BILL 03.25.2020 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 8 OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY CODE DECLARING THAT WILD HORSES ARE NOT GIVEN HIGHER STATUS THAN CATTLE, SHEEP, OR OTHER AUTHORIZED LIVESTOCK WITHIN WHITE PINE COUNTY, NEVADA

Commissioner Travis Godon's family runs cattle and sheep in White Pine County; while he is disclosing this, he noted this Ordinance will affect all ranchers, etc., so he will be commenting and voting on this. District Attorney Mike Wheable agreed. D.A. Wheable noted this is to identify the nuisance horses are in our County and how we can't do anything about it due to their protection under the Federal government; this Ordinance removes that protection. Commissioner Laurie Carson agreed and commented this is a great Ordinance. Commissioner Godon noted that horses overrun the range; the Feds would revoke grazing permits and their rights would be infringed upon if it continued. Commissioner Carson felt we should send the Ordinance to NACO for everyone to be advised. D.A. Wheable noted they've looked at other lawsuits in the country, and the counties are trying to be able to protect our way of life, including the horse issue. Further discussion ensued about how expensive it is to keep these horses alive; it was generally felt it's a public safety issue. D.A. Wheable noted that when the Feds neglect their duty to its citizens, you have to expect local governments and citizens to take matters into their own hands. He added that "if they don't act, people will, and I'm not going to stop it." Commissioner Shane Bybee commented that the horses are "like giant locusts" in their overrunning of the range.

At 9:45 a.m., Chairman Richard Howe adjourned the regular Commission meeting and opened the Road Commission meeting. At 10:00 a.m., Chairman Richard Howe adjourned the Road Commission meeting and reconvened the regular Commission meeting.

#### 10:00 A.M. – MAIN STREET COMMITTEE UPDATE

DISCUSSION/UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF THE MAIN STREET COMMITTEE  
Tourism & Recreation Board Director Kyle Horvath explained to the Board what the Main Street Committee does with the money given them by the County; they turn it into more money by utilizing it to file grant applications. For example, last year they received \$50,000 in grants that were applied for utilizing the funding from the County; he noted that's being financially responsible. He cited a handout of the Main Street project accomplishments and listed their most proud achievements. These include items such as a logo and style guide developed for signage, plus 6 directional signs downtown that were installed. The Inaugural Ely Film Festival was held March 13-15, and it was a huge success, a good example of fun events that we could show to the State with respect to our grants.

Director Horvath added more signage will be done in the high traffic areas to further direct people to the downtown area and the recreational areas we have to offer. He noted the group preparing the signage mobilized very quickly and was able to capture the look, feel, and economic value of our downtown area. Trail Map Kiosks are being set up in various locations throughout the town, such as in the Parks; and those areas would be motorized corridors, as stepping-off points onto those trails. The NDF Honor Camp will tile all the planters in the downtown area; those will be large-scale art planters, rather than living plants, which will minimize their upkeep. The benches, etc. will also be replaced as he explained, and these things will be working towards the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration and class reunions. Director Horvath noted the SNPLMA public park/plaza application and thanked the Board for prioritizing that, it's truly "a giant vision." A walking tour of Renaissance Village will include Mr. Glenn Terry's voice describing the life and times of that era; there will also be a cellphone mural tour of the downtown area, telling the history of each mural and sculpture in Ely.

Chairman Richard Howe cited the County's budget and the COVID-19 virus, noting our tax revenues will begin dropping if this continues. He felt we would have to look at every bit of our budget, including the \$15,000 for the Main Street project, this year. He emphasized that we must take care of the County first; and the owners of the downtown buildings MUST step up to the plate and help with all this. We have too many vacant buildings! Director Horvath expressed pride in all the Main Street Committee has been able to do, and he did agree with Chairman Howe's concerns. He hoped we could work together and continue to address the issues. Commissioner Travis Godon commented that it's unknown how many businesses we will see closing after all this.

Ely City Mayor Nathan Robertson noted that from the City side, he agreed with what Director Horvath has said, that the monies will be spent on bringing more businesses into our community. This is on the City Council's agenda for April 9<sup>th</sup>, he noted. While we do have buildings that are empty and buildings that are for sale, he maintained that we need to continue our momentum forward in this.

Commissioner Ian Bullis is a big advocate of working our figures to include safety measures against possible mine closures; however, he does feel this is a worthwhile investment. He pointed out that it will get harder for us to survive and bring other industries in here. When they come in today and see a "dead" area, "for a lousy 15 grand he felt this is well worth it." He added that the Main Street Committee and others are doing great stuff with the funds as it is yielding long-term returns. He felt we could find the money somewhere else, if we had to, to help make this work.

Commissioner Laurie Carson acknowledged that Chairman Richard Howe has a valid point, needing the business owners to step up and help pitch in. The City of Ely, she added, IS in White Pine County; and roughly 10,000 travelers come through on a daily basis. Most of those will be coming in on Main Street, she added. There are grants that the group can apply for that the County and City can't, he emphasized. She felt we're on the verge of having things fall into place; if the Main Street Committee continues to do what they're doing, she would hate to see it fail because we decided not to support it.

Commissioner Shane Bybee understands that with grant funds there would be money to do improvements; if he has a building that creates more expenses than income and has lost tenants, the building would just be creating a loss, not income. How can someone with an empty building, with no revenue coming in, participate in a program that would benefit him and everyone else? A weak Main Street means that we all suffer, and it creates a bad focal point. He stated we need to get this improved, generate some interest and bring people in to start more businesses.

Commissioner Bullis felt we need to be proactive in recruiting specific businesses; he cited the Sacramento Boardwalk, the businesses in Virginia City, etc., making areas fun for people to walk

around in. He suggested rental agreements and fees could be standardized by some of the building owners. Director Horvath noted that a strategy survey had been done that asked those kinds of questions, such as pertaining to hours of convenience being tailored for the visitors rather than for the business owners. He felt answers to those questions will help us plan for the Main Street developments. Commissioner Bybee noted that if the hours are posted for the businesses, they need to be adhered to; here, the businesses don't often stick to the posted hours and it turns away would-be customers.

Chairman Howe noted that the Board "isn't slamming the door shut on this," but this is our budget season and everything must be taken into consideration. Director Horvath commented that he could feel the Board's support in this.

#### 10:30 A.M. – PUBLIC HEARINGS

PUBLIC HEARING/DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION – THE WHITE PINE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSONERS WILL TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT AND CONSIDER THE APPROVAL OF THE PETITION FOR VACATION OR ABANDONMENT OF ROAD OR EASEMENT. THE 3 PROPERTIES TO BE CONSIDERED ARE: (1) THE ALLEY BETWEEN APNS 005-114-05, 005-114-06, 005-114-04 AND 005-114-03; (2) THE ROAD/EASEMENT OF BLOCK 24 ON NETTIE AVENUE (AKA CR610) ABUTTING APN 005-114-05 AND 005-114-06, AND (3) THE ROAD/EASEMENT BETWEEN APN 005-114-06 AND APN 005-115-01 ON ELY STREET, ALL LOCATED IN BAKER, NV – THE PETITIONER IS GATEWAY ACCOMMODATIONS, LLC

Chairman Richard Howe asked for comments; comments that had been submitted were from Public Works Director Bill Calderwood, WPCFD Chief Brett North, and Building Inspector Brad Christiansen. Commissioner Laurie Carson added the Finding of Facts, also in the backup materials. She wanted to know why this is being abandoned, and that anything that has the possibility of becoming landlocked is reason for concern, plus lack of emergency vehicle access.

Public Works Director Bill Calderwood had included the concern of land-locking a parcel so it wouldn't have proper access, in his comments. He added they don't own the parcel; we need to clarify the intent of the request. Chairman Richard Howe noted the Board can't take action until some more definite plans come forward.

Mr. George Chachas noted that if this is indeed resulting in a landlocked situation, we do have a problem. He felt the RPC Chairman should be present to explain this, as well as the Building Inspector. Without a good excuse, he felt it should be turned down. You can't make a person's property worthless, and that's what would be done in this case if it's approved.

Director Calderwood asked District Attorney Mike Wheable if the Regional Planning Commission has any authority to give away County property; D.A. Wheable replied, "Exactly!" He noted this request should have gone before the RPC first, and they would recommend to our Board, but no meeting had been held on this. Commissioner Carson felt the Finding of Facts should have been modified to include more information. In reply to a comment, WPC Clerk Nichole Baldwin advised Building Inspector Brad Christiansen did indeed comment on this; he recommended denial. Following brief discussion and advice from legal counsel, Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to deny approval. Commissioner Shane Bybee made a motion to deny approval of the petition for vacation/abandonment/easement as discussed. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING/DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION – THE WHITE PINE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WILL TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT AND CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A PETITION FOR VACATION OR ABANDONMENT OF ROAD OR EASEMENT. THE PROPERTY IS BETWEEN 25 SOUTH BAKER AVENUE (APN 005-117-01) AND 10 SOUTH SAVAL AVENUE (APN 005-117-05), LOCATED IN BAKER, NV – THE PETITIONERS ARE DONALD L. CROUCH AND ANDRE KIM CROUCH**

Chairman Richard Howe asked for public comment. Commissioner Shane Bybee noted that while this will create a problem for Mt. Wheeler Power, they still recommend approval. The property owner would be the only one affected by this, he felt. Chairman Howe noted that Mrs. Joy is the abutting owner to the property, and she had no comment on this. Commissioner Travis Godon noted that both properties are already abandoned, rendering the property useless. District Attorney Mike Wheable noted that Mt. Wheeler did indeed recommend approval, although there's a problem with their access. Public Works Director Bill Calderwood clarified that: The alleyway between the 2 properties doesn't go all the way through; but the power line comes in between them, and it doesn't run down the existing property they are looking to abandon.

Mr. George Chachas felt we shouldn't abandon such an alleyway without a justifiable cause, whether it's in Ely, McGill, Ruth, Baker, or any other town. It's unknown what their plan is for this, pertaining to blocking off public access; perhaps there would be a back entrance for Fire/EMS. He didn't wish the Board to take it away until viable information is provided on what is being done here. He agreed it should have been run through the RPC first.

Chairman Howe felt this is an easement they're looking to abandon. During the discussion, Commissioner Shane Bybee felt the alley was already halfway abandoned, since the right-of-way runs down the middle. Director Calderwood pointed out the alley goes nowhere! There is access to either of the parcels, which he described. Commissioner Travis Godon advised that WPC Assessor Burton Hilton had just texted him, and noted that he had no issues with this. Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion for approval. Commissioner Shane Bybee made a motion to approve the petition for abandonment for the property located in Baker, Nevada, as presented and discussed. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried. Commissioner Godon added that the same property owner owns both of these parcels.

At this time, the Board took the agenda items for WPC Clerk Nichole Baldwin.

**ITEMS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS**  
**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**NICHOLE BALDWIN, COUNTY CLERK**

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO APPOINT ART M. OLSON TO THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION**

WPC Clerk Nichole Baldwin advised this is a standard appointment to this board if there is a vacancy. Commissioner Shane Bybee disclosed that he is a "distant cousin" to Mr. Art Olson; District Attorney Mike Wheable felt it was fine for him to vote on this. Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to approve. Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to appoint Mr. Art M. Olson to the Board of Equalization. Commissioner Travis Godon seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF THE REQUEST FOR RESIGNATION FROM GERI WOPSCHALL FROM THE LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)

Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion for approval. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to approve the resignation of Ms. Geri Wopschall from LEPC as requested. Commissioner Travis Godon seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL EVALUATION FROM BAKER AREA CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WPC Clerk Nichole Baldwin advised this board had just turned their evaluation in late; the Commission had approved the others at the last meeting. Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to approve. Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to approve the annual evaluation from the Baker Area Citizens Advisory Committee as presented. Commissioner Shane Bybee seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO DESIGNATE PRECINCTS 1-6 AND 5 AS MAIL-IN PRECINCTS FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION PURSUANT TO NRS 293.213(4) TO PROTECT OUR MOST VULNERABLE DEMOGRAPHIC, THE ELDERLY, AND THE PUBLIC FROM THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 AT A COST IN EXCESS OF NORMAL ELECTION EXPENSES NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000

WPC Clerk Nichole Baldwin advised that this morning the Secretary of State declared all elections—for the Primary Election only—a mail-in. She needs the extra monies in order to facilitate this; but not hiring poll workers and sending out sample ballots and legal advertising, we will save money. However, instead of 1,000 paper ballots we have to send out 6,000 this year as we have more registered voters now than we've ever had, approximately 5,500. She continued that she's been doing this during her regular time, but now, we would need to contract with a company who could do this for us. It would probably cost from \$9-10,000 to print the ballots, stuff and mail them out. She cited the information in the backup materials. She anticipates Postage to be a lot higher but the cost is unknown at this point; she still wants to look at \$12,000 for Postage because of this. She also needs two pieces of equipment, which the Secretary of State will pay for, although it's unknown at this point if we would pay for them first and they would reimburse later. Those are a mobile ballot printer and a low capacity scanner. Clerk Baldwin continued to explain the Convention Center would still be open on Election Day, but people would be coming in to deliver their ballot plus same-day registration would also be going on. Finance Director Elizabeth Frances advised she will prepare a resolution to ensure funds will be dedicated to the Election, and we need to make available what is required. She added there are monies in Contingency. In reply to a query from the Board, Clerk Baldwin advised the scanner costs \$10,000 but she didn't have the cost for the mobile ballot printer as it wasn't available from the Secretary of State yet. She will obtain a quote and provide the amount to the Board, and noted we may have to pay for it up front. Director Frances noted that as long as the Secretary of State will be paying for it we can treat it as a grant, and it won't have to come out of Contingency. Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion for approval. Commissioner Travis Godon made a motion to designate Precincts 1-6 and 5 as mail-in precincts, with costs not to exceed \$20,000 as requested and discussed. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried.

At 11:00 a.m. Chairman Richard Howe recessed the regular County Commission meeting for a special meeting of the White Pine County Board of Public Health. At 11:47 a.m., Chairman Dr. Byun

adjourned the meeting of the Board of Public Health and relinquished the gavel to Commission Chairman Richard Howe. Chairman Howe reconvened the regular County Commission meeting.

**ITEMS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS**

**COUNTY COMMISSION**

**RICHARD HOWE, CHAIRMAN**

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF A LETTER OF SUPPORT TO THE NEVADA LANDS COUNCIL IN THEIR EFFORTS TO TRANSFER THE TITLE OF CERTAIN PUBLIC LANDS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO THE STATE OF NEVADA

Chairman Richard Howe cited the draft letter of support in the backup materials. Following brief discussion, Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to approve. Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to approve the letter of support to the Nevada Lands Council regarding transferring the title of certain public lands from the Federal government to the State of Nevada, as requested. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO ELMINATE FEES AT THE GOLF COURSE FOR GOLFERS OVER AGE 90

Chairman Richard Howe advised there are only 2 members of the Golf Course who are over age 90; they've been members for over 50 years, and have always held season passes. He noted the green fees are \$525.00 per golfer. He continued that he plays with these people, and although they only play a few holes they've paid their dues for over 50 years. They will continue to pay their trail and shed fees for the use of the course, he added. The next youngest member is 80 years old! He felt this wouldn't impact the County budget by allowing them to waive their green fees of \$525.00 after all these years. He would like to allow them to continue to play as long as they can. It was noted the trail and shed fees amount to roughly \$485.00, which they will continue to pay. Commissioner Shane Bybee noted one of the over-90 members is his uncle; District Attorney Mike Wheable noted there's no conflict there. Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion for approval. Commissioner Shane Bybee made a motion to eliminate the fees at the Golf Course for golfers over age 90 as requested. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried. Commissioner Laurie Carson felt their longevity is a good testament to our community and lifestyle here!

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO SERVE AS THE COUNTY'S DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE FOR PURPOSES OF ANY THEN-EXISTING MASTER SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND RESOURCE CONCEPTS, INC. (RCI) AND TO SERVE AS THE NATURAL RESOURCES LIAISON

There was a question as to if Commissioner Laurie Carson was appointed to this; Commissioner Carson noted that wasn't on the agenda. Chairman Richard Howe noted we had previously discussed appointing her to this position. Commissioner Travis Godon offered to be the alternate, as he is the liaison to the Water Advisory Committee. If that committee and PLUAC do merge, fine, but to be safe he could be designated alternate and bring things forth to Resource Concepts, Inc. The Board agreed this would be a good idea. Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to appoint. Commissioner Shane Bybee made a motion to appoint Commissioner Laurie Carson as liaison of Natural Resources as discussed, and Commissioner Travis Godon as the alternate liaison. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS**

**BILL CALDERWOOD, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO ADJUST CAMP SUCCESS FEES AND POLICIES**

Public Works Director Bill Calderwood explained the backup materials to the Board, and how the fees are now going to be handled, such as for cancellations. The amounts for individual's usage and the daily costs were also reviewed. He cited the Lions Club's charges in 2016 for Camp LaMoille, which were comparable rates for our Camp Success, although they have small cabins there and we don't. There were just a handful of days where the Camp was not available; it was fully booked otherwise. Chairman Richard Howe felt we should raise the fee to \$60/day, which would cover the deficit as noted, and that wouldn't be an exorbitant cost. The Board agreed the Camp is a beautiful place and very reasonable with respect to the services that are offered. Director Calderwood advised the County's "first right of refusal" is just beginning to take effect, which means the Camp will be available for more people in the community to utilize it, although there are very few open weekends. Discussion continued regarding raising the rates, from \$53 to \$60 and then to \$70; a suggestion was made for \$100/day. Director Calderwood noted the Camp is already reserved for this Summer; we can't change the fees on what is already booked, and he felt we would need an effective date for the new rate. Commissioner Shane Bybee made a motion to adjust the fees for Camp Success from \$53/day to \$100/day, to be effective with the new bookings for the Camp. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHITE PINE COUNTY AND SUNRISE ENGINEERING, INC. FOR ENGINEERING AND TECHNICAL SERVICES FOR THE SENIOR CENTER IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$94,000**

Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to approve. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to approve the agreement between White Pine County and Sunrise Engineering, Inc. for engineering and technical services for the Senior Center in an amount not to exceed \$94,000. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried.

**BRETT NORTH, INTERIM DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO BE INCLUDED IN RESOLUTION 2020-17, DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

Commissioner Laurie Carson recalled that at the last meeting this had been put on today's agenda to see if it would be modified. She felt this is fine as submitted. It was noted this was only for discussion, per District Attorney Mike Wheable. There were no other comments.

**TIM BUNCH, HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR**

**DISCUSSION/UPDATE ON PERFORMANCE EVALUATION STATUS FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES BY DEPARTMENT**

Human Resources Director Tim Bunch advised that April 15<sup>th</sup> was established as the evaluation deadline for the County to ensure the evaluations are conducted prior to the beginning of the next fiscal year. So today marks "20 days out." He reviewed the Departments: The Aquatic Facilities, Social Services, Judges, Courts, and the Senior Center, which are all nearly completed or finished. The Library had half of the evaluations written; and he added the Maintenance, Clerk,

Recorder and others that were still to be done on the list. His purpose today is to inform the Board of the policy written in 1998; we need to be consistent. All Department Heads have been informed, he noted. Commissioner Shane Bybee suggested that, considering our current situation, perhaps an extension could be done to allow time to complete those evaluations. District Attorney Mike Wheable suggested putting these on the next agenda. Commissioner Ian Bullis asked if we could send a kind notice to the Elected Officials' offices that they are not exempt from this. D.A. Wheable requested Director Bunch to draft a letter outlining the policies, etc., and it would be from Chairman Richard Howe to the Department Head. While it was noted they don't have to comply, the County does fund their Department; that's really the only control the Commission has. Commissioner Carson asked how the County could fund their employees if they don't know how they're producing for the County? She also had other issues; having an evaluation to fall back on is also important with respect to reprimands, etc. D.A. Wheable added that if the Department Heads want the Board to back them up, they need to also back up the Commission on this. Director Bunch emphasized he's not trying to draw divisional lines here, but rather as effective and responsible leaders we need to be fair and consistent as he advised. Commissioner Bullis felt some information should be included in the letter to dispel some false assumptions, such as their employees aren't being advanced; however, all of them do receive automatic advances annually. Director Bunch noted we need to be mindful of our budget, and part of that is doing due diligence on the evaluations. Commissioner Bybee cited mal-, mis-, and non-feasance that could result if the Department Heads aren't in compliance. D.A. Wheable noted that controlling their budgets is one tool to help ensure compliance; also, the Public Hearings on the Elected Officials are held in open meetings. He feels we're already running on an "as needed" basis in the County. No action on this item was needed.

#### DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO ADDRESS FEEDBACK FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS REGARDING COVID-19 PANDEMIC FOR OPERATIONAL AND STAFF IMPACT

Director Bunch noted that all the Department Heads, the D.A., Board of Health Chairman Dr. Byun, and Interim Emergency Management Director Brett North, are all working diligently on this. All the offices are doing something to mitigate the density of staffing in the offices; he cited examples. Finance, Social Services, the D.A.'s office, and Juvenile Probation, are staggering shifts, working from home when possible, etc. He noted the Maintenance and Road Depts. are also doing different things; he added that he is aware the Treasurer isn't full-staffed this week. He stated that for the most part, the Department Heads are doing their best to relieve the density issue. Chairman Richard Howe noted every office he has visited is doing the 60% as requested, and doing a good job in that effort.

#### DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL REGARDING SICK LEAVE AND APPROVAL DONATION PROCESS TO NEW EMPLOYEES IN LIEU OF ACCRUED SICK LEAVE DURING THIS COVID-19 PANDEMIC ERA

Director Bunch advised that people have come to him offering donations of sick leave time to those that don't have any accrued. He is asking the Board to approve donations from those employees to those who have not yet met probationary status. Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion for approval. Commissioner Travis Godon made a motion to approve the sick leave donation process to new employees in lieu of accrued sick leave during this COVID-19 pandemic era. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL FOR EMPLOYEES TO CONTRIBUTE LEAVE TIME OF NO MORE THAN 40 HOURS (WHILE RETAINING A BALANCE OF 240 HOURS) TO INDIVIDUALS DURING A 30-DAY PERIOD, SPECIFICALLY FOR THE PURPOSE TO ADDRESS HEALTH CARE NEEDS AND CARING FOR MINOR CHILDREN WHILE SCHOOL IS NOT IN SESSION IN COMPLIANCE WITH OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL #3 NEGOTIATION (CBA) CONVERSATION OF SUPPORT

Human Resources Director Tim Bunch advised we are doing this until our leaders say otherwise. Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to approve the contribution time as requested. Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF A MOTION TO CLOSE THE COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING PURSUANT TO NRS 241.030 TO HAVE A CLOSED PERSONNEL SESSION FOR LANCE GALE, AIRPORT MANAGER, TO CONSIDER HIS CHARACTER, ALLEGED MISCONDUCT, PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE, PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH IN ORDER TO EVALUATE HIS JOB PERFORMANCE FOR HIS ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Per recommendation of District Attorney Mike Wheable, this agenda item will be held until Manager Gale arrives.

**ELIZABETH FRANCES, FINANCE DIRECTOR**

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO AWARD CONTRACT TO CONSTRUCTION GROUP INTERNATIONAL FOR ASBESTOS ABATEMENT FOR THE ELY OLD SHOP BUILDING DEMOLITION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,980.00

Following brief discussion, Commissioner Travis Godon made a motion to award the contract for asbestos abatement on the Ely Old Shop Building to Construction Group International in an amount not to exceed \$5,980.00 as requested. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/DIRECTION/APPROVAL RELATED TO REVENUES AND DEPARTMENTS IN THE FY2021 BUDGET INCLUDING: COMMISSION, CLERK, RECORDER INCLUDING SPECIAL REVENUE BUDGETS, ASSESSOR INCLUDING SPECIAL REVENUE BUDGET, TREASURER, ELECTIONS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, FINANCE, HUMAN RESOURCES, DISTRICT ATTORNEY, JUSTICE OF THE PEACE-ELY INCLUDING SPECIAL REVENUE BUDGETS, DISTRICT COURT I INCLUDING SPECIAL REVENUE BUDGETS, DISTRICT COURT II INCLUDING SPECIAL REVENUE BUDGETS, JUDICIAL RELATED COSTS, JUVENILE PROBATION, JUVENILE DETENTION, BAILIFFS, JUDICIAL COURT SUPPORT, SHERIFF INCLUDING ADMINISTRATION, DETECTIVE, PATROL, JAIL, CORONER, DISPATCH AND TASK FORCE, FIRE, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BUILDINGS & MAINTENANCE, PARKS MAINTENANCE, PUBLIC HEALTH, COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS-ANIMAL CONTROL, COUNTYWIDE EXPENSES, LIBRARY, AIRPORT OPERATING, NATURAL RESOURCES, TRANSFERS, CONTINGENCY, AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION, SOCIAL SERVICES INCLUDING DONATIONS FUND, ROAD DEPARTMENT, AIRPORT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, SB74 TAX FUND, TOWNS OF LUND, MCGILL & RUTH, SENIOR CENTER, INDUSTRIAL PARK, BUILDING & PLANNING, GOLF COURSE, AQUATIC CENTER INCLUDING SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, CHINA SPRINGS, AND CAMP SUCCESS

Following brief discussion, it was generally agreed this item should be tabled to the next agenda. Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to table: Commissioner Ian Bullis made the motion, and Commissioner Laurie Carson seconded. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO RATIFY CONTRACT FOR INSPECTION, TESTING & SPECIAL INSPECTION SERVICES REQUIRED FOR THE JUSTICE CENTER PROJECT TO SUMMIT ENGINEERING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$44,400**

Finance Director Elizabeth Frances noted this is in the guaranteed maximum price, so it's already part of the County's budget. Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to approve. Commissioner Shane Bybee made a motion to ratify the contract to Summit Engineering in the amount of \$44,400 for the services required for the Justice Center Project, as requested. Commissioner Ian Bullis seconded. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL TO AWARD BOND COUNSEL RELATED TO FINANCING ON THE JUSTICE CENTER PROJECT BASED ON PROPOSALS RECEIVED**

Director Frances cited the handout on bond counsel. She advised 2 proposals have been received, and both of those have met the required criteria. She cited Sherman & Howard and Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth as the two proposals received. While either one of these firms was qualified, Sherman & Howard was the lower cost proposal and she is recommending that one be selected. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to approve the award of bond counsel for the Justice Center Project to Sherman & Howard, as recommended. Commissioner Travis Godon 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**

Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion for approval. Commissioner Travis Godon made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Shane Bybee seconded. Motion carried.

**UNTIMED ITEMS**

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF THE REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM NEVADA RURAL COUNTIES RSVP PROGRAM, INC. FOR \$14,408 IN FY2021**

Social Services Director Desiree Barnson advised that they are requesting an \$804 increase; she feels their services are very important to our community. She noted we're the only County that provides mileage for RSVP services; we could either include this amount they are requesting, or keep it at \$13,604 without the mileage. Commissioner Laurie Carson wished to see some justification for the increase; Chairman Richard Howe felt their Program Director, Ms. Cozette Eldridge, wouldn't have requested this without some reasoning. Director Barnson noted that we are already providing mileage reimbursement for services and therefore she is opposed to this. Commissioner Shane Bybee also requested some justification, and if this could be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Based on

today's discussion, Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to table. Commissioner Laurie Carson made the motion; Commissioner Shane Bybee seconded. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE EMERGENCY SPECIAL COUNTY COMMISSION MEETINGS HELD:**

- March 16, 2020
- March 18, 2020

Commissioner Ian Bullis made a motion to approve the March 16 and March 18 sets of minutes of the Emergency Special County Commission meetings as presented. Commissioner Travis Godon seconded. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Ann Kellogg, Main Street Committee, had requested to make public comment; it was allowed at this time. She thanked the Board and noted that she's been doing lots of work on the property they own on Main Street, which is vital to helping to get these businesses rented. They have also met with two separate property owners on businesses they are still looking to open, for the Board's information.

At this time, District Attorney Mike Wheable advised the agenda item under Human Resources Director Tim Bunch regarding Airport Manager Lance Gale could be reopened, as Manager Gale has arrived at the meeting.

**TIM BUNCH, HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR**

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF A MOTION TO CLOSE THE COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING PURSUANT TO NRS 241.030 TO HAVE A CLOSED PERSONNEL SESSION FOR LANCE GALE, AIRPORT MANAGER, TO CONSIDER HIS CHARACTER, ALLEGED MISCONDUCT, PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE, PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH IN ORDER TO EVALUATE HIS JOB PERFORMANCE FOR HIS ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW**

Human Resources Director Tim Bunch briefly reviewed the process for Airport Manager Lance Gale and advised he had the choice of holding an open or closed evaluation. Manager Gale wished to have a closed evaluation.

At 12:25 p.m., Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to close the open meeting for a closed session as requested. Commissioner Laurie Carson made the motion; Commissioner Travis Godon seconded. Motion carried.

The Closed Session was duly held. At 12:40 p.m., Chairman Richard Howe adjourned the Closed Session and reopened the regular Commission meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 12:40 p.m., Commissioner Travis Godon made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Shane Bybee seconded. Motion carried.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY OF WHITE PINE  
STATE OF NEVADA

BY: Richard Han  
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

Walden  
WPC CLERK OF THE BOARD