

**IN A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY COMMISSION AND BUDGET WORKSHOP HELD ON APRIL 1, 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

**County Officials**

Elizabeth Frances, Finance Director  
Mike Johnson, IT Specialist  
Tim Bunch, HR Director (Zoom)  
Lynette Gust, Juve. Prob. Officer (Zoom)

**Also Present**

George Chachas, George Town Media  
Susan Haas, RSVP (Zoom)  
Kyle Horvath, WP Tour & Rec Bd (Zoom)  
Caroline McIntosh, Nv. Small Bus. Dev.  
Ctr.

\*\*\*\*\*

Chairman Howe called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Vice-Chairman Travis Godon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE/SILENT INVOCATION**

This was duly observed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Caroline McIntosh represented the Nevada Small Business Development Center today. She offered information about relief for small business owners who have suffered impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. She also thanked the Board for their continued support for Main Street Project.

George Chachas reminded the Board that he hasn't seen anything regarding any reimbursement from damage to his property on High Street, or the refund from the County Business License since those were repealed. He continued that on March 25<sup>th</sup> the County gave away over \$1,000 in Golf revenue fees because it was needed; however, he felt it was more of a favor to friends and family, and cited selective enforcement. He suggested the Board get the proper equipment to fix the partial sound system in the meeting room to accommodate those who are hard of hearing. He talked about the Centennial Building with respect to a permit by the Community Choir, and commented on the black plastic sheeting. He asked if the County has a regulation to ensure ethnic minorities, seniors, and other citizens are able to conduct business without discrimination. He advised that the Building Inspector is the biggest detriment to growth in both the City and the County. He felt the economy is "rocky," and the Jail Expansion and Courthouse projects should be put on hold at this time. He advised that Lake Tahoe is telling people to stay home; he cautioned that construction workers from other areas may bring contaminants into the County. He added

that construction projects are being shut down; he's waiting for some answers. Time was called.

Tourism & Recreation Board Director Kyle Horvath thanked the Board for listening to the presentation about Main Street, and advised that this investment is for the entire County; benefits will be seen Countywide. He emphasized that Ely is "just the flagship for the program." He noted branding, marketing, beautification, and incentives for business owners to participate. He added that the Main Street Program is a buffer to manage the wants and needs to the community, so that the Board can focus on more important needs.

### **Budget Workshop**

**Discussion/For Possible Action: Direction or Approval related to Revenues and Expenses 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 including Victim Witness Services, 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 and Maintenance, Parks Maintenance, Public Health, Cooperative Agreements-Animal Control, Countywide Expenses, Library including Gift Fund, Airport Operating, Natural Resources, Transfers, Contingency, Agricultural District, Emergency Medical Services, Agricultural Extension, Social Services including donations fund, Road Department including Public Transit and RTC, Airport Capital Improvement, Capital Improvements, SB74 tax fund, Towns of Lund, McGill & Ruth, Senior Center, Industrial Park, 911 Fund, Tri-County Weed, Building & Planning, Golf Course, Aquatic Center including special revenue fund, China Springs, and Camp Success. Elizabeth Frances, Finance Director**

Finance Director Elizabeth Frances talked about revenue projections and cited the handouts she provided. She is required to use the figure provided by the Department of Taxation for ad valorem taxes, but she proposes we use a different number this year. They estimate Net Proceeds of Minerals will be approximately \$5.1 million; the current year shows \$3 million in the General Fund. She advised that the State made these projections before everything hit; she is looking to cut that number in half. Revenues from the Net Proceeds are generally by calendar year, not fiscal year; they started out very poorly this year, and there is no immediate recovery to bring them back up in 6 months, which adversely impacts our budgets. No changes to secured or unsecured real property are reflected. She advised that our Projections for Net Proceeds of Minerals will be changing drastically. Gold is doing better than copper, and copper is struggling at this point in time. She welcomed feedback from the Board, and noted that she plans to put 100% of the Net Proceeds revenues into the Justice Center Project next year. She is continuing to approach everything conservatively.

Director Frances advised the Board about her concerns regarding the CTX (consolidated taxes based on sales). She noted Page 3 shows the proposed adjustment to the CTX; next year's projection is \$3.4 million, and this year's is \$3.6 million. She reminded

the Board that we gave \$200,000 to the city of Ely and that would mean another \$70,000 if we take the increased projections into account. She adjusted the numbers and came up with an estimated change of 80%. She felt the economy wouldn't immediately jump back, and that things will stay slow until the mines pick back up. She felt the reduction down to 80% would be the best way to go. She added that we have an adequate fund balance to meet requests, but she doesn't want to paint an unrealistic picture. Chairman Richard Howe felt it may not be conservative enough, as this situation could get worse. Director Frances felt the biggest impacts will be seen in the first 90 days, and it should improve. We will see some waves, but the worst will be seen during this year. In FY 2021 we need to be conservative, but we should also be seeing things opening back up. Commissioner Shane Bybee is concerned that we may face this again next year without a vaccine; he supports the conservative approach. Commissioner Ian Bullis felt that it's smart that we aren't relying on the Net Proceeds. He's looking for our net income versus expenses as budgeted now, not counting our current fund balance. Director Frances responded that \$4.4 million was the budgeted estimated ending fund balance for this year, with \$14.2 million in revenues and \$16.1 million in budgeted expenses, which calculates to \$2.5 million, or a decrease of \$1.9 million for the next fiscal year.

Director Frances advised that we will see a loss in our investment income. WPC Treasurer Catherine Bakaric manages those, and will be reinvesting as permitted. We are cautioned that we will see some unrealized gains that can artificially inflate our fund balance this year. Commissioner Travis Godon asked for clarification about Net Proceeds of \$2.5 million; of that, \$2.1 million is going to the Justice Center Project. Commissioner Godon felt we should allocate the entire \$2.5 million to the Justice Center Project, and figure out the rest later. Commissioner Larson Carson agreed with Director Frances that with the liability we have in regards to funding the Justice Center Project, the more we pay for it, the less of a liability it will be. The Board agreed with Director Frances' approach.

Finance Director Elizabeth Frances cited the handouts containing changes to the budget, including the changes listed from the Nv. Department of Taxation. She increased the electric franchise fee this Fall, pursuant to Ordinance; PILT went up by \$50,000. She deleted the Water Rights Lease of \$50,000 with KGHM Robinson Mine. Central Services Allocation is on the last page; changes since last year are reported. Commissioner Carson noted the changes in the towns in regards to IT and HR for Central Services. Director Frances explained how everyone uses HR since our HR Director was brought on, so everyone shares in that service cost. Director Frances explained that she does not charge that cost to towns at this time, but has calculated what that would be.

Next, Director Frances went over the requested increases over \$5,000, line by line. She will bring back more information on the increase to Public Health Management of \$29,270 from the Indigent Fund. The Board removed any requests for new positions and furniture. Public Works Director Bill Calderwood wants to change a Temporary position into a Permanent position, but she cautioned against it. Commissioner Ian Bullis remembered that Director Calderwood might've had a very important reason for needing that position change. Commissioner Carson would prefer to hire a Temporary worker and change the status to Permanent, instead of the other way around. Director Frances recalled that Public Works has so much work that they don't have the staff to complete it all. Chairman Richard Howe would rather not put the County into a position to cut jobs again.

Commissioner Bullis wanted Director Calderwood to meet with Director Frances to calculate the savings of bringing on a position and cutting contracts. Commissioner Godon noted the request for another vehicle for the full-time person; this will be put on hold for now. Chairman Howe felt the request for another Senior Equipment Operator is needed; he explained that the funding from the gas and diesel fuel taxes could mean more work and maintenance on our roads. Commissioner Shane Bybee is not comfortable adding any positions at this time and Commissioner Godon agreed, but he does want to keep the County sound. Chairman Howe mostly agrees, but felt the roads are important and the decrease in staffing in the Road Shop needs this position. Commissioner Carson wants to include this in discussions with Director Calderwood next week, and Chairman Howe agreed.

Commissioner Carson felt someone is needed at the Fairgrounds as a Host; Director Frances explained this position was requested to be increased to  $\frac{3}{4}$  time. Commissioners Godon and Carson want to keep this request in the budget. The Economic Development position request to move to full-time will be kept. The Golf Course Advisory Board Secretary request is fine with Commissioner Godon, so they will be on par with other advisory board secretaries.

Regarding non-payroll increases: The Board kept increase requests made by the Clerk for high density storage and also the Treasurer for record storage. Director Frances will bring back a better number for IT and the reworking of the infrastructure request. The Board is good with requests for laptops and IT services from BCT. The Board approved the increases for insurance and removed the requests from Ely Justice Court for audio & visual recording equipment. Commissioner Bybee suggests giving the Assessor a new vehicle and giving the old Assessor's truck to Juvenile Probation in order to meet the needs of both these Departments. Commissioner Godon felt the request for funding the demolition of the shed in the canyon can wait. He wants to know if Director Calderwood can get by without a new truck for a couple of years. The request for new courthouse steps for \$250,000 gets to stay. The request for increase to AG District secretary's pay was adjusted to \$600. The request for an increase for travel budget by Juan Carlos Cervantes in UNR Cooperative Extension was discussed. Commissioner Bybee felt that since travel is being restricted we should not be giving requests for travel. He wants to revisit travel budgets across the board to look at requests for increases and the last couple years of history of travel budget use. Director Frances will bring back travel requests next week. The remaining items were presented without additional comment.

The County is looking at a net of \$2.5 million in ending fund balance with \$8 million in net proceeds mitigation fund. Director Frances felt as long as our ending fund balance doesn't drop below 16%, we will be ok. Commissioners Bybee and Godon want to see what it will look like if we move to 20%. In response to Commissioner Godon's request for information about payroll increase projections, Director Frances advised that negotiations with the union have been deferred till May and she thinks we may not want to agree to a multiyear contract and she does not know what that will look like. The Sheriff's Office increases are guaranteed, but county employees are not. Commissioner Carson cautions the Board how they talk about this. Commissioner Godon said if people get mad, they can leave. Director Frances suggested a closed session next week. Commissioner Bybee wants to tie the increases for exempt staff to the revenue coming in, if possible. If proceeds come

in high at the end of the year, we can pay exempt employees retroactively after that increase. He wants to start off conservative and backfill, if able, later on. Commissioner Bullis asked Director Frances for a general fund summary total on payroll expenses, operational expenses, and travel to help them understand where money can be found. Commissioner Godon wants to see gas/diesel expenses in the general fund as well.

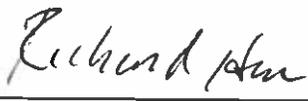
Director Frances advised the Board that Susan Hass from RSVP is on Zoom Meeting to answer any questions they may have about her request for funding. Susan Haas thanks the Board for the chance to speak today. She asked for an increase of \$804 due to a van that was totaled and replaced. They provided more services last year, but acknowledges the tough times the County is in. RSVP helps seniors who are homebound and provides rides to chemo/radiation/dialysis trips and works with NVCAN to help people find internet resources. The Board thanks Susan for her comments.

Public comment:  
There was none.

Commissioner Bybee moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Bullis seconded the motion. Motion passed and the meeting closed at 10:53a.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY OF WHITE PINE  
STATE OF NEVADA

BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
WPC CLERK OF THE BOARD