

**IN A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY COMMISSION HELD ON JUNE 19, 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

Also Present

George Chachas, George Town Media  
Bryan Hamilton  
Ava Hamilton

\*Commissioner Ian Bullis and Shane Bybee arrived late to the meeting.

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Chairman Richard Howe called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Commissioner Laurie Carson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE/SILENT INVOCATION**

This was duly observed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment from the public by phone. Commissioner Shane Bybee arrived at the meeting at 1:07 p.m.

Mr. Bryan Hamilton addressed the Board, noting his comments are regarding racial equality and justice; he added he plans to comment often. In Baker, both he and Ms. Ava Hamilton are participating in Black Lives Matter marches; they plan to hold one here in Ely following this Commission meeting, and he invited the assemblage to join them. He asked the logical question that often accompanies such activities; "Why Black lives, not just all lives?" The real issue is that they are one group who have been singularly oppressed for the past 400 years. In dealing with oppression of this one racial group, he stated that "we find that we come from places of emotion." In a brief historical summary of this, he proposed that "until Black lives matter, all other lives don't matter." He thanked the Board for the opportunity to comment.

Mr. George Chachas, of George Town Media, came forward with several ongoing concerns: The County needs to solicit for a fair and balanced newspaper; he charged they aren't publishing items that he had submitted months ago. He asked if the WPC Fire District Chief has inspected ingress/egress on the corner of Avenue D and Highway 93 near the Holiday Inn; the road isn't wide enough for emergency vehicle access. He added there's no proper ADA access at the Van Camp junkyard, either. The Bristlecone Convention

Center has a new parking lot design, but it doesn't meet the minimum ADA requirements. He felt they should put back the walkway they removed, as well; he wondered who designed and inspected it. He stated the Building Inspector needs to follow up and start enforcing the rules and regulations; he cited the modular homes in a trailer park that have gone in, while he can't put one on his property. Mr. Chachas also brought up the sound system for the public meetings, and that it has yet to be installed. He wants answers to some of his questions! Chairman Richard Howe called the time.

**DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION/APPROVAL OF THE CANVASS OF THE VOTE FOR THE 2020 PRIMARY ELECTION HELD IN WHITE PINE COUNTY, NEVADA**

WPC Clerk Nichole Baldwin advised the backup wasn't available until yesterday; she provided that along with public copies of the abstract and breakdown of the votes for the Primary Election, held June 9<sup>th</sup>. She continued that this mail-in election was fantastic, the County Clerks throughout the State loved it; it was very relaxed, compared to normal Election days. White Pine County had a high turnout of over 44%; it was easier and 100% accurate, and any recounts would have been totally accurate as well, in her opinion. White Pine County had 4,810 voters; of those, 2,128 turned in their ballots/came in to vote, which amounted to 44.24%. As for the "same day registration," only 7 people came in to do that for the Primary. Clerk Baldwin noted there were many husbands and wives signing each others' ballots, however, which made them uncountable. Of those whose signatures had drastically changed, or didn't match what we had on record, 27 were fixed and counted; 19 weren't fixed in time, so they couldn't be counted. The outcome of the votes hadn't changed with our local results since the evening of June 9<sup>th</sup>; she didn't think it would be necessary to review the races. In reply to a query from Chairman Richard Howe regarding if anyone had questions regarding the tallies, the election, or the results; there were none. Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to approve. At this point, Commissioner Ian Bullis arrived at the meeting; he apologized for being late, and was given the opportunity to ask questions regarding the election outcome. He reviewed the Canvass and had no comments to make. Commissioner Laurie Carson made a motion to accept the Canvass of the Vote for the 2020 Primary Election as presented. Commissioner Travis Godon seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The Board thanked Clerk Baldwin for all her work on the Primary.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Commissioner Ian Bullis apologized to the assemblage for being late, explaining there was a new musician in the sound studio and the time had just gotten away from him.

Chairman Richard Howe congratulated everyone for being able to serve another term; he felt this Board is doing a very good job. While admittedly there's lots of work in front of us, he's proud of this Commission; even though they do debate, they are able to come to conclusions without harsh criticism, and he's looking forward to serving another 4 years with them.

Mr. George Chachas commented that while the Chairman is happy, he isn't, because he isn't getting answers to his questions. He cited Ms. Carol McKenzie being on the Regional Planning Commission and there are new regulations coming out that will affect everyone; he added she still isn't ADA compliant with her sidewalk in Lund. Chairman

Richard Howe stated no more discussion would be heard on that item. Mr. Chachas noted that the RPC needs to address the vulgar signs at the entrance of Main Street; Chairman Howe advised that's something he should take up with the City of Ely. Mr. Chachas maintained that the County does have representation on the Planning Commission and so they are jointly setting the rules. He then noted the Tourism & Recreation Board is spending much of their funds on the Main Street project; he advised those who can't do their job need to go. Either the issues should be addressed, or he will keep bringing up the concerns.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 1:49 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: *Richard Howe*  
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

*S. Daldre*  
WPC CLERK OF THE BOARD

