

IN A REGULAR MEETING OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY COMMISSION HELD ON
FEBRUARY 9, 2022 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
- Melissa Tremain, Deputy Clerk

County Officials:

- Sheriff Scott Henriod
- Elanie Eldridge, Chief Deputy Finance Clerk
- Mike Johnson, IT Specialist
- James S. Beecher, District Attorney
- Brett North, WPC Fire Chief
- Martin Troutt, WPC Roads Lead Supervisor
- Lori Romero, Library Director
- Kristi Lynch-Rozich, Aquatic Center Director

Also Present:

- George Chachas, George Town Media
- Pat Stork, Ely City Fire Chief
- Rudy Herndon

Present via Zoom:

Geri Wopschall, Samantha Elliot (JOIN Inc.), Marietta Henry, Mary Kerner, Michelle Beccher, Abbi Hilligross (Representative Mark Amodei), Charissa Halsey (Juvenile Probation), Desiree Barnson (Social Services), Heather Brennan (BACAB), and others.

Chairman Richard Howe called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. Commissioner Laurie Carson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE/SILENT INVOCATION

This was duly observed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

George Chachas, Georgetown Media, addressed the Board regarding the ratification of Michael Wheable’s appointment as County Manager; he stated that Mr. Wheable is not qualified for that kind of salary, but instead should start at the base salary. He further stated that Michael Wheable has failed to protect the citizens from the former Building Inspector Brad Christiansen including incidents involving his behavior, the way he speaks to citizens, and building permits. He further stated that Mr. Wheable has not addressed nepotism or the ADA access at the southeast corner of the new Justice Center. He stated that Mr. Wheable has failed to address the restitution for victims of breaking and entering or vandalism of private property, safety issues that have been brought forward to the committee and zoning issues that also included the Regional Planning Commission, City Council and the County Commission. He further stated that Michael Wheable showed no concern for the safety of children in regards to the planning of the Heritage Park being located near the truck stop. He spoke on a recent incident in the area involving a young girl that

should have brought up red flags and the assault from a County Commissioner that he received a few years ago. He stated the issues from the Regional Planning Commission Meeting on December 15, 2021 should have been on the agenda for the Commission by now. Time was called.

Heather Brennan via Zoom, Baker Area Citizens Advisory Board, asked for the Commission's support with the Baker residents in opposition to the Pine Valley Water Supply Project as it endangers the water supply in Snake Valley. She stated that the State BLM is taking comments now and it is important to the residents of Snake Valley.

1. NOTICE OF TIMED AGENDA ITEMS:

A. 9:00 A.M. COUNTY MANAGER

1. Ratification of appointment of Michael Wheable to position of County Manager effective February 2, 2022 at County Manager Step 8 on the Exempt Pay Scale or \$134,382

Commissioner Ian Bullis motioned to approve, Vice-Chairman Travis Godon seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Chairman Richard Howe recessed the meeting of the County Commission at 9:05 A.M. to convene a meeting with the White Pine County Fire Commission.

C. 9:30 A.M. CERTIFICATION OF PUBLIC ROADS

1) PUBLIC HEARING/Discussion Only: The White Pine County Board of Commissioners will take public comment regarding the Certification of Public Roads within White Pine County, Nevada pursuant to NRS 365.550. Martin Troutt, Roads Lead Supervisor

Martin Troutt, WPC Roads Lead Supervisor, advised that this is standard yearly and has been published in the Ely Daily Times.

George Chachas stated that they should have maps of these roads. Nichole Baldwin, County Clerk, advised that the Clerk's Office has been asked about back up material of maps and they were directed to the Road Department, but had still not received any maps.

Supervisor Troutt advised that there is a GIS map on the County Website provided by Sidwell, but it contains roads and parcels and is not accurate. He stated they are currently working on getting a map that would only contain roads and it should be ready by the next certification. Commissioner Carson advised of her hesitation that the community won't understand if there are no maps. Commissioner Bullis advised that even if a list of the roads was provided that it should help. Information Technology Specialist Michael Johnson stated that they are currently working on what data needs to be shown, accuracy of data and an Excel spreadsheet that shows what is being certified. DA Beecher advised that the public should have some material to see what is being certified to have a meaningful hearing regardless if the backup is a link to a website or a pdf. Supervisor Troutt showed the Commission a printed map, explaining the colors of the roads that are taxable or not.

2) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of the Certification of Public Roads within White Pine County, Nevada pursuant to NRS 365.550. Martin Troutt, Roads Lead Supervisor

Supervisor Troutt advised this is a certification from last year that states the County has 2,322.81 miles of center line roads, 115.65 miles are paved and 2,207.06 are unpaved miles. He

further stated that the change was 1.1 miles of paved road added from the previous year, certifying to the State of Nevada for the purpose of 984.223 miles of center line roads for motor field tax mileage.

Commissioner Bullis motioned to approve, Vice-Chairman Godon seconded. Motion Passed 5-0.

***1) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of Resolution 2022-09 To Revise The Standards Of Operation For White Pine County Advisory Boards To Expressly Authorize A Designee In Place Of An Absent Advisory Board Member**

District Attorney James S. Beecher presented this item. Commissioner Bybee advised of his concern of having a board represented by designees. DA Beecher advised that the language could be changed to a quorum having to consist of a majority of non-designees. Commissioner Carson advised that this is due to the size of the board with specific representations, the boards have been combined and further advised how the designees are spread out between the different boards. DA Beecher further advised a change of the language for the definition.

Vice-Chairman Godon motioned to approve with the changes noted by Commissioner Bybee, Commissioner Carson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

***2) Discussion/For possible action: to approve the White Pine County District Attorney to hold a question and answer session for the community of White Pine County about the state of the opioid litigation**

DA Beecher advised that with some planning this has been scheduled for February 24th at 6 pm at the Convention Center. He further stated that it was discussed with the legal counsel regarding the topics that could be discussed. He advised this will be streamed via Facebook live on the White Pine County Clerk's Office Facebook page.

Commissioner Bullis motioned to approve, Commissioner Bybee seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

B. ELECTED OFFICIALS

1. Sheriff Scott Henriod

a) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of the White Pine County Sheriff's Office in custody quarterly death report for October 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021

Sheriff Scott Henriod reported that there were no deaths.

Commissioner Carson motioned to approve, Commissioner Bullis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

b) Discussion / For Possible Action: Approval of the White Pine County Sheriff's Office to offer a \$5,000.00 (Five Thousand Dollar) hire on bonus for new employees. The new employee would sign a five-year contract with White Pine County. If the new employee left the County employment during the five years then the employee would pay back the County on a pro-rated amount. Language for the five year contract would be provided by the District Attorney's Office. This is being requested due to extreme staff shortages and lack of applicants

Sheriff Henriod stated that he believed that Law Enforcement is no longer a popular field due to recent events, and they are 7 positions short in White Pine County. He further advised that there are a lot of agencies around the nation that are using incentives with the standard being a

\$10,000 hire-on bonus per deputy hired. He stated that he recently lost a deputy to an agency that had offered a \$30,000 sign on incentive. He advised that he is looking to retain these employees for the long run so the contract does state that if the employee does not fulfill the 5-year term of the contract, the balance of the amount the employee would owe to the County would be prorated based on the amount of time the employee served the County. Commissioner Carson asked about the impacts to the Sheriff's Office budget. Chief Deputy Finance Clerk Eldridge advised that after figuring out the amount, it would come out of the contingency fund for this year. Sheriff Henriod further advised regarding the overtime that is required due to the staff shortage. DA Beecher advised that if they were to retain an officer that is already POST certified, it would save the county \$30,000 per officer due to POST certification. Commissioner Bybee suggested that if the applicant is POST certified then the incentive could be \$15,000 due to how much the county is saving. DA Beecher advised that he could change the language so that the pro-rated amount would be changed. Sheriff Henriod asked to bring it back at the next meeting with the language changed. Sheriff Henriod further stated that he has several employees that are going to be looking at retirement in the next couple of years.

Commissioner Carson motioned to table, Commissioner Bullis seconded. Motion tabled unanimously.

2. Catherine Bakaric, Treasurer

a) Discussion/Update: on the monthly Treasurer's Report for December 2021

Treasurer Catherine Bakaric was not present, but the Commissioners had reviewed the report and had no issues with it. They will contact the Treasurer with questions.

3. Nichole Baldwin, County Clerk

a) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of the request for appointment from Danielle Jensen to the vacant seat on the McGill Town Council

Clerk Nichole Baldwin advised that Danielle Jensen had let her seat lapse due to not believing she had the time to serve, but has decided that she does have the time.

Commissioner Bybee motioned to approve, Commissioner Carson seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

b) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of the request for appointment from Jake Rosevear to the vacant seat on the Wildlife Management Board

Commissioner Carson motioned to approve, Commissioner Bybee seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

***c) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of the request for appointment from William R. Wilson to the Natural Resources Advisory Committee representing mining**

Commissioner Carson motioned to approve, Commissioner Bullis seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

***d) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of the request for appointment from Jacob Carter to the Natural Resources Advisory Committee representing livestock**

Clerk Baldwin made a correction, livestock is not a seat and it should be changed to farming.

Commissioner Carson motioned to approve with the correction, Vice-Chairman Godon seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

C. DEPARTMENT HEADS

1. Kristi Lynch, Aquatic Center Director

a) Discussion/Update: on the Schellraiser concert event in McGill scheduled for June 2nd through the 5th, 2022. Rudy Herndon

Kristi Lynch, Aquatic Center Director, asked to move this to the next meeting, as it was thought to be then, but showed her support for this item. Commissioner Bullis advised that he has spoken to Rudy Herndon regarding this.

Rudy Herndon provided an update to the Commission stating that a significant change is there are no face mask requirements this year. He further stated that the McGill Pool will be closed and they will be requesting a liquor license at a later time. There will be staff from the pool and the festival on hand to keep people from the pool. He stated that they are on track and going forward with 31 bands, there are 4 days with an average of 8 bands per day starting around noon. He advised that he is using an event planner out of Austin, Texas, a marketing firm out of Tennessee, and has a campground of 88 acres. He extended an invitation for the Commission to view the property and advised the new shipping container homes they purchased were featured on Off The Wall Homes on HGTV. He advised housing, restrooms and shower facilities will be on site during the festival. He further stated that one of the bands has a term of their contract for a petting zoo to be present, which will be located near the archery center. He advised of some of the bands that will be playing. He further stated that ticket sales are very low with 123 tickets given to local residents and gave the information for the tickets. He advised they are working with Director Bill Calderwood regarding either parking on Avenue K or the option of renting buses for shuttling of festival goers. Chairman Howe stated that the School District is a good option to rent buses.

2. Lori Romero, Library Director

a) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval to Accept LSTA 2021-12 Computer Lab Grant Amendment in the Amount of \$4,100 for 3 Additional Computers. The Match of \$410 will be covered with the Library Director's Salary

Lori Romero, Library Director, stated that the Library originally received this grant for 6 computers, but then received additional grant for 3 more.

Commissioner Bybee motioned to approve, Commissioner Carson seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

b) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval to Accept 2022 State Collection Development funds in the Amount of \$1,942. There is no match.

Director Romero stated that this is set up by legislature.

Commissioner Carson motioned to approve, Commissioner Bullis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Elizabeth Frances, Finance Director

a) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of contract between White Pine County and JCR for the McGill South-West End Project in the amount of \$ 16,550.00 (funded

by the Community Development Block Grant) based on recommendations from the evaluation committee after bid opening on 1/18/2022

Chief Deputy Eldridge advised that the bid was approved January 26th and this is to approve the contract.

Commissioner Bybee motioned to approve, Commissioner Bullis seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

b) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of Quarterly Grant Reports

Vice-Chairman Godon motioned to approve, Commissioner Bullis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

c) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval to Submit a Waiver to Prevent White Pine County's Removal from the Supplemental City-County Relief Tax Guaranteed Status to the Department of Taxation

Chief Deputy Eldridge advised this was in the back up and she supplied an additional paper at the beginning of the meeting showing what the County would be gaining or losing with the guaranteed status. She further stated that if we go out of the guaranteed status we receive the sales tax, but there is no going back if we leave the guaranteed status.

Commissioner Carson motioned to approve to submit the waiver, Commissioner Bybee seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

d) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of monthly financial reports for January 2022

Vice-Chairman Godon motioned to approve, Commissioner Bullis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

e) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of Resolution 2022-06 to utilize \$13,000 of contingency in the White Pine County Indigent Fund to provide for a new van for Ely bus services

Chief Deputy Eldridge advised it is for Social Services, which was corrected by Clerk Baldwin in the back up material. Social Services Director Desiree Barnson, via Zoom, advised that twice a month that one of the buses is pulled to bring food from Las Vegas. She advised that \$66,164.63 has been obtained in grant money for this vehicle.

Commissioner Bybee motioned to approve, Commissioner Bullis seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

f) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of Resolution 2022-07 to augment the White Pine County Indigent Fund by \$6,714 from unanticipated and unbudgeted Beginning Fund Balance and increase Equipment Over \$5000 line item to provide for new van for Ely bus services

Vice-Chairman Godon motioned to approve, Commissioner Bullis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

g) Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of Resolution 2022-08 to augment the White Pine County Indigent Fund by \$225,000 from unanticipated and unbudgeted Beginning Fund Balance and increase Capital Improvements line item to provide for

the social services portion of the Community Services Building

Commissioner Carson motioned to approve, Commissioner Bybee seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

- h) **Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval for County Manager to recruit qualified attorney for White Pine County Public Defender to replace Richard Sears who has tendered his resignation effective March 30, 2022**

DA Beecher advised the County Manager, Finance Director and the two District Court Judges did have a meeting yesterday regarding this. Chief Deputy Eldridge advised that this is to approve for the County Manager to go out and get different options that were discussed at the meeting.

Vice-Chairman Godon motioned to approve, Commissioner Bullis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a) **Discussion/For Possible Action: to ratify Correspondence Sent on Behalf of the White Pine County Commission.**
- b) **Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of Payroll for County Elected Officials.**
- c) **Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of HR Transmittal for Payroll Changes.**
- d) **Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of budget transfers within and between functions or programs within a fund that do not increase the total appropriation of the fund.**

Commissioner Carson motioned to approve, Commissioner Bybee seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

4. NOTICE OF UNTIMED ITEMS

- a) **Discussion/For Possible Action: Approval of minutes from the County Commission meeting held January 12, 2022**

Commissioner Carson motioned to approve, Commissioner Bullis seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Bybee motioned to approve, Commissioner Carson seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 A.M.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHITE PINE COUNTY
STATE OF NEVADA

BY: Richard [Signature]
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

[Signature]
WPC CLERK OF THE BOARD