
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

A meeting of the Regional Transportation Commission was held on March 27th, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. at the White Pine County Library.

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT:

Wayne Cameron, Chairman
Jim Alworth, City of Ely
Richard Howe, WPC Commission

ALSO PRESENT:

Janette Trask, City of Ely
BJ Almberg, Basin Engineering
Lindsey Jacobson, Recording Secretary
Steve Baer, NDOT
Martin Troutt, County Road Superintendent
Mike Sturgeon, City Streets
Kathy Workman, County Finance Director
Mike Cracraft, City Public Works

ALSO PRESENT: (PUBLIC)

George Chachas

Wayne Cameron called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

***COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (3-Minute Time Limit):** - George requested that the agendas and following attachments be sent to him directly. George said that his property on 710 Avenue G has a 12-inch drop that he has told NDOT in two meetings that it needs to be corrected since it is a liability. George said there are also no water taps for his 729 and 733 Great Basin Blvd properties, He wants that sewage connection corrected. George also stated that there was a water leak and Q&D parked on the water turn-off and that he has not been reimbursed. George also mentioned that NDOT had recently put in new curbs and gutters along Avenue D, between 14th and 15th street, but it does not meet minimum ADA access or have a sidewalk. George also expressed his concern about the Q&D project from Avenue L to Great Basin Blvd, there is no ADA access or sidewalk. George also mentioned that he asked for a permit to be able to park on his curb and gutter on his property 710 Avenue G, but said that the restaurant has that access.

The three-minute time limit was reached.

***DISCUSSION- UPDATES FROM NDOT:-** Wayne Cameron asked about a project going out to bid in November, Steve Baer said that the bidding will most likely go out in the spring of 2024 and the project

would begin in the summer of 2024. Richard Howe asked what leg of the road the project would cover, Steve told him that it will cover from Bell Avenue and from 10th to 15th Street.

***DISCUSSION- UPDATES FROM COUNTY:** - Martin Troutt told the board that the County Road Department will continue to tentatively with oil stabilizing and chip sealing into spring and the fiscal year. Martin stated that with the winter that we have had that the county may not get to that with the fiscal year coming to an end. Martin also informed the board that the county is doing their best to keep roads open and keep removing snow, He also mentioned that they are dealing with washouts all throughout the county, and predicts that they will be fixing them all summer. Richard Howe asked Martin to put a cone out on Avenue K and 2nd Street in McGill, he said he lost his tire and wants to warn the public about it. Martin said he would look at it.

***DISCUSSION- UPDATES FROM CITY:** - Mike Sturgeon told the board that the city is still working on snow removal and getting to pothole patching as they can.

***DISCUSSION- EXPLANATION OF RTC FUND BALANCE- KATHY WORKMAN- COUNTY FINANCE DIRECTOR:** - Kathy Workman explained that the report that the RTC had been presented in the past was actually a reflection of the road departments fund balance and not the RTC's. Kathy showed that the fund balance is at 1.5 million and not 2 million. Kathy explained that the spreadsheet was made before she worked for the county so she really doesn't know what went wrong with the spreadsheet, but she could tell that during 2016 the spreadsheet was correct, but after that, it became incorrect and was reflecting the Road Departments funds. Jim Alworth had some questions about the error and Kathy Workman explained that she only had a PDF file that Bill Calderwood had given her, Kathy went back through the PDF and broke down all of the information that was provided to her and found the error. Janette Trask asked Kathy if the information was right in our financial system TYLER and Kathy told her it was all correct in the system, just this spreadsheet was wrong. Jim Alworth asked how the auditors missed this, Kathy told Jim that the auditors only look at TYLER, and since this spreadsheet was a personal spreadsheet they wouldn't have looked at it. Kathy explained that if the RTC continued to use TYLER reports for any fund balance/expense revenue balances for any further information they will have the correct numbers.

***DISCUSSION/ACTION/POSSIBLE APPROVAL: - COUNTY TENTATIVE FY2024 RTC BUDGET:** - Martin Troutt explained what the County is asking for the FY2024 budget (please see attached backup material for the list). Martin Troutt also asked to possibly roll over \$250,000 from this year's budget into next year because all of the oil projects the county had planned are on hold due to the harsh winter and roads washing out, for a total of \$750,000.00 for FY2024.

Jim Alworth motioned to approve the FY2024 budget of \$750,000.00. Richard Howe seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.

***DISCUSSION/ACTION/POSSIBLE APPROVAL: - COUNTY TENTATIVE FY2024 PUBLIC TRANSIT BUDGET:** - Martin Troutt explained to the board what the county is asking for FY2024 (please see attached backup material for the list). Martin would like to upgrade 3 dump trucks with sanders and plows, a new or used 20,000-gallon frac tank, 950 loader broom attachments, 2 pickup trucks, creating a new line item within public transit for equipment repair and maintenance, and other road amenities like signs and culverts. Jim Alworth asked which equipment is causing the increased cost of repair and maintenance. Martin said that it would be for all of the H graders, semi-truck, trailers, and other pieces of equipment. Martin told the board that he had pieces of equipment waiting until July 1st to be repaired so adding this extra money would ensure costs are covered for all equipment. Richard Howe asked about possibly rotating the fleet to avoid older equipment maintenance. Martin Troutt said yes and that he has an auction plan in place to get rid of the "boneyard" that is at the bottom of the Road Department.

Richard Howe motioned to approve the \$1,000,000.00 FY24 County budget. Jim Alworth seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.

***DISCUSSION/ACTION/POSSIBLE APPROVAL: - CITY TENTATIVE FY2024 PUBLIC TRANSIT BUDGET:** - Janette Trask said that the city is asking for \$250,000.00 for their FY2024 budget. That will cover the cost of utilities, repair maintenance, engineering, and other day-to-day costs. Jim Alworth asked if the city would want more, but the city was comfortable with the number they presented. Lindsey Jacobson pointed out that some of the available funds in the public transit budget are for the Ely Bus as well.

Jim Alworth motioned to approve the \$250,000.00 FY2024 Public Transit budget. Richard Howe seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.

***DISCUSSION/ACTION/POSSIBLE APPROVAL: - CITY TENTATIVE FY2024 RTC BUDGET:** - BJ Almberg explained to the board that with the help of Kathy Workman, to budget the \$500,000.00 of the RTC balance they came up with some costs. The city would also like to rollover \$275,000.00 because they had some money for projects that the city is putting on hold due to the harsh winter Ely has received, they would like to roll the money over to next fiscal year to help with the repairs that are going to be needed. BJ also mentioned that there might be some funds from emergency grants to help due to the federal state of emergency. Jim Alworth pointed out that the labor cost on the sheet (please see attached document) are quite high because with all of the work the city will have to do, they will need outside help because the fuel tax does not cover the City Streets department's wages expense. Jim mentioned that it is allowed under the nickel fuel tax by law. Jim Alworth said that he likes the idea of the county using emergency funds since they have roads that are completely washed out, but the city only has potholes, Jim doesn't really see the funds being used for potholes and warned the city/county committee about accepting the funds. Richard Howe said that the committee has the idea of prioritizing the funds if granted to find areas that are in desperate need of fixing. Kathy Workman told the board that the county has to apply for the emergency fund since they are in charge of emergency services. BJ ensured the board that they will not put themselves in a situation and will not ask for help if they don't meet the requirements.

Jim Alworth motioned to approve the city's \$775,000.00 (including the rollover). Richard Howe seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.

***REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:** - Jim Alworth asked when a good time would be to look at the budgets if any adjustments are needed. Janette Trask told him that he can adjust budget numbers all the way up until the fiscal year ends. Jim asked to have a meeting to go through and see if they need to take some of the rollover money for the RTC to cover some wage costs. The board agreed to a meeting on May 9th, 2023.

Richard Howe motioned to set the meeting for May 9th, 2023 at 8 am. Jim Alworth seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.

***APPROVAL OF RTC MINUTES (9-1-22 & 11-17-22)** – Jim Alworth pointed out a spelling error on the 9-1-22. Jim found a spelling error on the 11-17-22 minutes.

Jim Alworth motioned to approve the minutes with the corrections. Richard Howe seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.

***COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (3-Minute Time Limit):-** George stated that there was an engineer that evidently approved the access to Terry Gust's lower lot, and when George asked Terri about which attorney he hired Terry had told him that he had not hired one and that an engineer had given him

the okay at no cost. George said that he would like to know who the engineer was because Mr. Chachas had to pay an attorney and that he does not like the discrimination. George asked the board who inspects NDOT's projects. George said that he had reported Avenue K in McGill in a previous meeting, and says that it does not have proper ADA access. George also requested that he be given a complete list of parking permits that the City of Ely and NDOT have given to those along Great Basin Blvd. George said that he cannot park alongside his property, but all of the other entities around him can. If a permit is not needed he does not want smoke blown in his direction.

The three-minute time limit was reached.

Jim Alworth motioned to adjourn. Richard Howe seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 am.