

EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 20, 2022

STATE OF NEVADA)
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COUNTY OF EUREKA)

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law on December 20, 2022. Present were Chairman J.J. Goicoechea, Vice Chairman Michael Sharkozy, Commissioner Rich McKay, District Attorney Ted Beutel and County Clerk Recorder Katherine J. Bowling. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. The interactive video conferencing system was connected and utilized between Crescent Valley and Eureka for the entire meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following items were removed from the agenda: IT Department Item # 3, Natural Resources Item # 6 and Olcese item # 1. Commissioner Sharkozy made the motion to approve with the noted changes; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion, Motion carried 3-0.

Chairman Goicoechea began the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Goicoechea opened the floor for public comments. There was no public comment in Crescent Valley.

In Eureka, Laura Oslund provided public comment on The PACE Coalition and requested to be on the next agenda. She commented that she received approval to donate 3 or 4 thousand dollars to the Sheriff's Office Leadership Conference. She also received a Federal Grant in the amount of 124 thousand dollars a year for the next 4 years to be used towards mental health programs. She also reported that she was working to have someone within the County host the Smart Recovery program rather than have an outside person host via zoom.

Jesse Watts spoke to thank everyone that supported the Fund Raiser held last night.

Chairman Goicoechea reminded everyone that the next BOCC meeting would be held on January 3, 2023 per NRS.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the November 7, 2022 and November 18, 2022 Draft minutes were taken together in a motion made by Commissioner Sharkozy and seconded by Commissioner McKay. Motion carried 3-0.

Audio recordings of BOCC meetings: Chairman Goicoechea asked Assessor and Web Master Michael Mears to explain how the audio recordings of Board Meetings could be posted on the County Website while minutes are being prepared of those meetings. Mr. Mears explained that the audio recordings have always been available upon request, however, this was something that could be done but recommended that once minutes

were complete the audio file would be taken down so as not to use up website disc space. He also mentioned that more and more state entities were utilizing live streaming of meetings via YouTube and that this could be an idea to consider. Commissioner McKay mentioned that he thought that the new software implemented by the Clerk Recorders office would also help to catch up minutes. Chairman Goicoechea stated that we would still need to approve those minutes at Board meetings before they could be posted. Commissioner Sharkozy made the motion to approve posting the audio recordings of Board meetings on the County website while minutes are being prepared of those meetings and then taking those recordings down after minutes are approved by the Board and then posted in their place. Rich seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

COMPTROLLER

Payment of Expenditures: Expenditures were presented for approval by Comptroller Kim Todd. After review, Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$2,850,121.05 accounts payable. That includes pass-throughs of Department of Taxation Room Tax for \$1,305.05; Department of Taxation Vendor Tax for \$35.19; Nevada State Controller School Tax for \$1,014,898.65; Nevada State Controller for \$5,524.58; Division of Minerals for \$2,010.00 and \$134.48.00 to the Washoe County Crime Lab and \$1,052.63 to the N1 Grazing Board. Chairman McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Fund Balance Report: The Board reviewed the current fund balance report.

COMMISSIONERS-

New Year's Eve Ball: CJ Sestanovitch with the Volunteer Fire Department asked for \$4,500.00 to pay for the band for the Annual New Year's Eve Ball scheduled for December 31, 2022 at the Eureka County Opera House and asked for the check prior to the January 3, 2023 Board Meeting. Commissioner McKay motioned to approve with funds coming out of the Commissioner's Misc. Grants Fund, Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; Commissioner Goicoechea added that funds be paid immediately following approval of the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Opera House fee waiver for Fund Raiser: Chairman Goicoechea moved to approve ratification of waiving the fees for the use of the Opera House on December 19, 2023 for a fundraiser that was held to benefit several community members. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Termination of Agreement: Chairman Goicoechea explained that the current agreement between Churchill County and Eureka County for health-related services was no longer needed because of the creation of the Central Nevada Health District. Commissioner Sharkozy moved to approve the early termination of the agreement; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; Motion carried 3-0.

Central Nevada Health District: Commissioner Sharkozy made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement between the Central Nevada Health District and Eureka County for health-related issues. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Setting Date and Time for Public Hearing for Plan to Consolidate County Municipal Water System Ordinance: Chairman Goicoechea explained that the Board approved a public hearing at the October 20, 2022 BOCC Meeting and set a Public Hearing date and time to be held on December 6th but the notice was not published in the paper and so the Public Hearing needed to be rescheduled. It was recommended by the District Attorney Ted Beutel that the Hearing should be held during the January 20, 2023 BOCC meeting because of the full agenda for the January 3, 2023 meeting and also to allow time for publication. It was motioned to approve holding a Public Hearing at 10am on January 20, 2023 for the Plan to Consolidate County Municipal Water System Ordinance by Commissioner Sharkozy and seconded by Commissioner McKay. Motion carried 3-0.

Setting Date & Time for Public Hearing for Proposal of 2023 Eureka County Commissioner License Board Ordinance: Chairman Goicoechea suggested that a Public Hearing for the proposed 2023 Eureka County Commissioner License Board Ordinance that had been discussed at a prior Liquor Board meeting be scheduled at the January 20, 2023 BOCC meeting at 10:30. Commissioner Sharkozy made the motion, Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. The Motion carried 3-0.

TREASURER:

Treasurer's Monthly Report: Chairman Goicoechea stated that County Treasurer Pernecia Johnson had shared her November 2022 Report via email and asked whether Commissioner's Sharkozy or McKay had any questions for Treasurer Johnson. They both replied they did not. Treasurer Johnson said she had nothing further for the Board.

SENIOR CENTERS-

Senior Centers' Report: Senior Center Director Millie Oram began her report by asking if anyone in the meeting that had their vehicle parked in Senior Center Parking could please move because of the anticipated large number of people coming to the Center that day for the Christmas Party. She reported the High School Band would be performing for the Seniors and that they enjoyed having the band come perform. Next she gave her monthly report that the Senior Center in Eureka served 793 meals for the month of November and that averaged out to be 42 meals per day. Also, for the month of November, Director Oram reported that the Senior Center in Crescent Valley had served 810 meals with an average of 43 meals per day and together the two centers deposited \$9,013.00 for November 2022.

Position Description for Senior Center Program Director: Chairman Goicoechea asked if Human Resources Director Heidi Whimple could talk on this Agenda item. Director Heidi said that her and Director Millie had worked on the Position Description together and the only added change to the prior job description was a part where the Director would be responsible for helping people with social services. JJ entertained a motion to approve the presented job Description for Senior Center Program Director, Commissioner Sharkozy made the motion and Commissioner McKay seconded it. The Motion carried 3-0.

Hiring Freeze Waiver Justification and Authorization to Fill: A Hiring Freeze Waiver Justification and Authorization for the Eureka Senior Center to fill the following positions: (a) Senior Center Program Director and (b) Kitchen Aide/Janitorial were presented to the Board. Chairman Goicoechea asked Director Oram when she wanted to fill the Director Position. Director Oram responded that she would like to fill it in January so that she had three and a half months to train her replacement. Chairman Goicoechea ask Comptroller Kim Todd if it was covered in the budget. Comptroller Todd said that it was. Commissioner Sharkozy made the Motion to approve the waiver. Commissioner McKay asked if the motion could also include part (b) and Commissioner Sharkozy added it. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. The Motion carried 3-0. Chairman Goicoechea then thanked Director Oram for her time and service to Eureka County on behalf of the Board and the Senior Citizens.

AMBULANCE & EMS:

Report: EMS Director Kenny Sanders gave an update to the Commissioners on ambulance runs and emergency services provided for the Month of November. He stated that there were 21 total calls for service which was a decrease of 5 calls from the month of October. Of those calls 9 were in the Crescent Valley Town area and 12 were in the Eureka Town area. He reported transporting two patients to MedX, 3 patients to Reach Air, seven patients to Northeastern Nevada and one patient to William B Ririe.

He also reported that they received their monitors and were working with IT to get them set up. Commissioner McKay asked how they would work. Director Sanders explained that the monitors would help them transmit things like EKG's directly to the hospitals and would be used for on ambulance video capabilities with their EMS Director Stefanko so he could help with patient care. He also reported that the system had recording capability as well. He mentioned that he was also working with Comptroller Todd to budget for the final two monitors as well.

Director Sanders reported that they were also continuing to do COVID Shot boosters and Flu Shots upon request and in addition, they were continuing to do COVID testing as well.

Director Sanders also reported that they had given CPR classes for coaches at the School District. He stated that they would have an ambulance stationed at school sporting events upon the School Districts request.

Commissioner Sharkozy thanked Director Sanders for taking such good care of him the week prior when he himself was ambulated.

MCAC:

Recommendation for William B Ririe to Contract with Nic Hirshi in Crescent Valley: Medical Clinic Advisory Committee Chair (MCAC) Irma Davila, discussed that the negotiation committee met and talked with Nic Hirshi about his contract amount. Nic wanted \$14,794.00 a month to run the clinic in Crescent Valley. Chair Davila reported that the recommendation by the committee was a six-month contract with Nic Hirshi that would begin on January 3, 2023. It would include him working two days a week on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 12 hours a day with the accountability that if he missed a day, he would make it up in the same week or add an additional day the following week.

MCAC Chair Davila reported that Crescent Valley was happy with the recommended contract. Commissioner Sharkozy asked if Nona Kellerman was involved with the recommendation and MCAC Chair Davila said that she was. MCAC Chair Davila also stated that this contract would be for basic care and anything else would be referred out. Commissioner McKay asked if this would include Lab work. MCAC Chair Davila replied that the plan was for Nic to draw labs in Crescent Valley and then drop them off at LabCorp himself in Elko after his shift. Commissioner McKay then expressed that he thought Chair Davila and team did a good job negotiating the contract with Matt at William B. Ririe and that he was happy with the end result. He felt that it would really help Crescent Valley which has been underserved from medical services in the current William B. Ririe Contract with Eureka County. Nona Kellerman commented from Crescent Valley that she agreed with Commissioner McKay in that the people who had attended the negotiating meetings from Crescent Valley were also happy with the contract as well. She felt that the 12-hour shifts would also benefit the mining community. Commissioner Sharkozy thanked Nona Kellerman. A motion was made by Commissioner Sharkozy to approve the recommendation from MCAC to allow William Bee Ririe (WBR) to contract clinical services in Crescent Valley with Nik Hirshi for the remainder of the six months of the fiscal year contract 2022-2023, in the amount not to exceed \$94,956.67 with a note that this does not add any dollar amount to the original contract amount with WBR of \$633,000. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Before the Vote was called for by Chairman Goicoechea, Sheriff Jesse Watts asked the Board if there would be advertising and marketing of the clinic in Crescent Valley because he felt a lot of people didn't know the service was available. He also asked the same for the Clinic in Eureka. MCAC Chair Davila followed up the question by explaining that she had spoken with Matt of WBR and that he had stated that they have a Marketing Director named Paula who he would follow up with. Commissioner Sharkozy asked if WBR would accept the insurance from the mine. MCAC Chair Davila said they had looked into that and they would. Michael Mears also commented that the Eureka County Website could be utilized as well. Commissioner McKay commented that he felt that WBR had done a poor job marketing medical services in Eureka County and that he had talked with Matt about relaunching what services are available in Eureka County by maybe issuing a mailer to all residents. He hoped this would be launched in early January. Chairman Goicoechea asked for the vote and motion carried 3-0.

WBR Contract Renewal for 2023-2024 Fiscal Year: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the WBR Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Clinical Services Contract for an amount not to exceed \$637,664.02, with the following considerations:

- a. Eureka Clinic to be allocated a total amount of \$410,500 and Crescent Valley Clinic to be allocated a total amount of \$227,164.02.
- b. Crescent Valley services will be contracted via WBR with Nik Hirshi added as an addendum to the main contract.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner McKay. Motion carried 3-0.

JUVENILE PROBATION:

Ratification of Credit Limit Increase: Chairman Goicoechea took both items under Juvenile Probation together. Juvenile Probation Officer Stephen Zimmerman reported that the annual ski trip, held December 15-16, 2022, was a success with 63 kids

participating. He reported using his County Credit Card to purchase lift tickets and ski/snowboard rentals in the amount of \$1,500.00 and Irma Davila's County Credit Card was also used for the purchase of lift tickets, ski/snowboard rentals, hotels and meals in the amount of \$4,000.00 and he would like ratification from the BOCC for approval of these expenses. Commissioner McKay moved to approve the expenses. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

EIDE BAILY, LLP -TERI GAGE, PARTNER:

Eureka County's Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Audit Discussion: Teri Gage, Partner with auditing company Eide Baily, LLP discussed in detail with the BOCC the June 30th, 2022 Eureka County Audit Report. The Independent Auditor's Report states that the auditors reviewed collective financial information in preparing the audit and it explains management's responsibilities, auditor's responsibilities and provides a conclusive opinion. She was happy to report that Eureka County had an unmodified clean opinion, which is the highest level you can achieve on financial statements.

Statement of Net Position: The Statement of Net Position (assets minus liabilities) was discussed. Ms. Gage stated that the BOCC is responsible for 140 million dollars in Net Position, which was an increase in 3.6 million dollars from the prior fiscal year and that 24 million of that is restricted for certain items like grants and state statutes. She highlighted some significant changes for the year, like cash and investments increasing 4.8 million dollars in capital asset additions. She said that the County had \$2.8 million in additions like vehicles, Devils Gate main line extension and the HVAC at the Court House. Also, she mentioned the purchase of a new motor grater, wheel loader and IT upgrades. She noted that the County received about \$180,000 in ARPA Funds and used that for the Devils Gate Main Line water extension.

She then discussed other post-employment benefits or (OPEB) liability. She stated that was things like your health insurance cost for your retirees. She reported that it had pretty much stayed the same by moving from 8.4 million dollars to 8.3 million dollars. The net pension liability decreased 1.3 million dollars, by going from 10 million to 8.6 million.

She touched on the fact that there was the highest increase had she ever seen for the monthly PERS contribution and that it would have a significant impact on the future budget and employee pay increases.

Proprietary funds: She then moved on to the proprietary funds, or statement of revenue expenses and changes in Net Position. She said that the County had a loss before capital contributions this year of about a million dollars where last year it was a million one. She reported a negative cash flow of about \$199,000 where the prior year was \$200,000. She said that the negative cash flow depreciation is \$997,000 which meant no depreciation was being funded. She encouraged the Board to keep that in mind during the budget process.

Compliance with NRS: She also noted that there were no Statute Violations for the year and that the County should be very proud of that.

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and changes in Fund Balance: She reported that the County's ending fund balance was \$49 million. The County had budgeted \$35 million, which was an increase of \$5.5 million dollars from the previous

fiscal year. She noted that the tax rate allocated to the General Fund was increased from 6.1 percent to 6.375 percent. She again mentioned the PERS increase that was going from 29.75 percent to 33.5 percent for regular employees and from 44 percent to 50 percent for police and fire employees.

She said that Revenues were about \$1.5 million under what the county had budgeted. She said that net proceeds were about \$862,000 less than budgeted but the C-Tax was \$733,000 more than budgeted. She then said that what really got the County was the net change and fair value of investments which took a huge hit for all local governments.

She then went over expenditures. Expenditures were 12.5 million and the county had budgeted 19.2 million so Ms. Gage stated that the County's expenditures were about \$6.7 million less than budget which was \$300,000 less than the previous fiscal year.

Future Reserve and Retiree Fund: Ms. Gage said that she wanted to discuss with the Board the Future Reserve Fund that was restricted dollars per NRS 362.171 that can only be used when you have a significant decline in revenue from maybe a mine closing and loss of Net Proceeds. She explained that in order for it to be its own fund it needed a dedicated revenue source otherwise it would have to roll into the general fund.

She also went over the retiree health insurance fund and the fact that it did not have a dedicated revenue source and would also need to be rolled into the General Fund.

Journal Entries: Ms. Gage said that it is very common during the audit process to find and report journal entries. She said that there were only 3 journal entries and that was a very small amount for the size of the County. One entry was \$81,000 for a Diamond Valley Weed District Grant. She believed that the receivable was over recorded and included some of the 2022-2023 revenue. The other two findings were related to revenue collected in the Treasurer's Office where \$61,000 was not correctly deferred at year end and \$16,000 was deferred and shouldn't have been. She reported this to be an insignificant finding.

Another finding that she mentioned was from the Sheriff's Office where 3 vehicles had been purchased and two quotes were not obtained. This was not a NRS violation but a county policy violation. The County policy states that any item being purchased \$25,000 and \$49,000 require two quotes. NRS states any item over \$100,000 requires the item go out to bid.

Auditor's Comment Letter: The last item Ms. Gage discussed with the Board was the Comment letter summarizing the audit responsibilities, significant liability estimates, journal entries and statute compliance. She discussed one of the new items in the letter which said that the Auditor's have to disclose anything they felt was a significant risk were in the audit.

Approval of the Eureka County's Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Audit and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report: Chairman Goicoechea stepped away from the meeting at this time and so Commissioner McKay made a motion to approve the Eureka County Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Audit and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report as presented. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. The motion carried 2-0.

Eureka County Television District's Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Audit Discussion: Ms. Gage reported that the TV District received an unmodified opinion or highest level that can be achieved. She went over the Statement of Net Position, reporting that the TV

District has about \$1.3 million dollars in net assets or net position. She said that cash had gone down about \$19,000 compared to the previous year. She also stated that the TV District only had about \$48,000 in asset additions and about \$6,500 net change from the prior year. She felt that this indicated a very normal year. She then stated that they do not have employees so they don't have the PEB or Net Pension Liability.

General Fund: She went on to explain that the TV District only has one Fund, the General Fund. She reported that their revenues were \$142,000 for the year down slightly from the prior fiscal year which was \$155,000. Their property tax revenue fell from \$248,000 to \$200,000 mainly from net proceeds of mines decline of around \$20,000 and their investment earnings down about \$26,000.

Ending fund balance: Ms. Gage reported that the TV District ended the year with \$801,000 in ending fund balance which was a change of \$7,600 from the previous fiscal year. Their total expenses were \$224,000 in Fiscal year 2021 and they were \$194,000 for this fiscal year. She reported that they didn't have a lot of capital outlay projects for the year.

Compliance with NRS: Ms. Gage noted that the TV District did not have any Statute violations for the year which is what they like to see.

Journal Entries: She reported no Journal entry findings for the year.

Approval of the Eureka County Television District's Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Audit:

Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the Eureka County Television District's Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Audit and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report as presented. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

IT DEPARTMENT:

Update on IT Projects and activities: Misty Rowley, IT Director gave a detailed update to the Board on all of the projects Quest and her IT Department had been working on in the past month. She mentioned that Quest was working to finalize the conduit installation at the annex and set up cell boosters for the Opera House. She also engaged Quest to help with a business impact analysis for the County. Commissioner McKay asked Ms. Rowley to explain the Business impact analysis study. She reported that Quest would send out questionnaires to the department heads to determine the impact on IT related processes in each office should the County experience a disaster of some sort. Commissioner McKay asked if this was included in the existing contract and Ms. Rowley stated that it was not and that it cost the County around \$19,000.

Camera Replacement in Crescent Valley: Misty Rowley, IT Director explained the existing cameras that were installed by Desert Hills at the Shop in Crescent Valley were getting older and they were not working properly. She said they were having trouble getting the recordings off of them remotely. By installing the new cameras, both Eureka and Crescent Valley would then be the same type of Camera and software. Chairman Goicoechea returned to the meeting. Commissioner Sharkozy made the Motion to approve Quote 016850 Version 1 from Quest to replace cameras in Crescent Valley for a not to exceed amount of \$18,180.00 (\$15,150.00 x .20) utilizing funds budgeted for capital outlay (0101-018-55010-000) in the Technology Support budget. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

ROAD DEPARTMENT:

Report: Raymond Hodson, Assistant Public Works Director-Roads, updated the BOCC on current road maintenance projects happening throughout the County. Mr. Hodson mainly reported that snow removal was the priority. He also stated that for Crescent Valley, they had started a small rebuild project in the Firehouse on the bathrooms.

Promotion request: Assistant Public Works Director, Raymond Hodson explained that because of recent movement in the department and public works office he had no one to cover for him when he takes a day off. He stated that he would like to promote someone for this purpose. Chairman Goicoechea confirmed that both the Comptroller and HR had signed the Promotion Request Form. Commissioner Sharkozy made the motion to approve authorizing Assistant Public Works Director to promote an employee to Equipment Operator III. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion and the motion carried 3-0.

Update on Eureka Fairgrounds and Equipment: Assistant Public Works Director, Raymond Hodson asked the BOCC for direction on how much money the Board would like to spend on improvements at the Fairgrounds. A lengthy discussion ensued amongst the BOCC members and Mr. Hodson. They went over a conceptual drawing of the changes that were suggested. Chairman Goicoechea told Mr. Hodson to keep moving forward with reaching out to surrounding mining companies to see if they would donate funds but that action could not be taken by the BOCC until an item was placed on the agenda.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Report: Jeb Rowley, Public Works Director, gave his report on projects and activities to the Board. He gave an update on the current courthouse heating project. Commissioner McKay asked if he thought the Heaters would be fully functional in a few weeks and Mr. Rowley said that he felt they would. Mr. Rowley also reported on the review of a video from a well that showed hard water deposits plugging the perforations in the casing and the work that would be done to rehab the casing. He also added that they would be adding 100 feet onto the existing casing of the well. He also talked about the progress on the Kobeh Valley PER and water master plan updates. He said that they were able to get an MOU linked with NGM for two-acre feet of water at the Hay Ranch Well as well as two-acre feet at a well at Tonkin in exchange for an agreement to maintain portions of Sheep Creek Ranch Road. He then reported that they had been holding interviews for the Landfill positions and the swimming pool supervisor position. He acknowledged Heidi Whimple, HR Director and her role in helping Public Works with the hiring process for all of his recent open positions. He then gave an overview of the recent road utility and water system projects in both Eureka and Crescent Valley. He talked about building assessments such as the Library in Eureka. He also said that they had been working on a Grant Application with the state hazard mitigation office for a Multi jurisdiction plan with White Pine and the Tribe.

Purchase of Toolbox: Jeb Rowley, Public Works director stated that he would like to purchase through Grainger a basic back of the truck tool box for a Public Works truck. Commissioner Sharkozy made the motion to approve purchasing one (1) Weatherguard

toolbox from Grainger, for an amount not to exceed \$1,200.00, utilizing funds budgeted in fiscal year 2023 for capital outlay/carpool account (042-140-55010-091) in the Capital Projects Fund. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Purchase of Running Boards: Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve Public Works purchasing one (1) pair of Westin Automotive running boards from Summit Racing, for an amount not to exceed \$550.00, utilizing funds budgeted in fiscal year 2023 for capital outlay/carpool account (042-140-55010-091) in the Capital Projects Fund. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Airport Reclaim system: Public Works Director Jeb Rowley explained the process that is used set in place by the FAA to test fuel at the airport. He stated that the purchase of this system would be cost effective for the County because it would reclaim 2 to 3 gallons of fuel a day that was being pulled off for testing. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the purchase and installation of the 100LL Reclaim System at the Eureka Airport in the amount not to exceed \$23,510.00 utilizing funds from account (042-140-55010-000) in the Capital Projects Fund. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Quantum Electric: Mr. Rowley explained that a backup generator was needed at the fuel island at the Eureka Airport in case the power was out during an emergency situation. Commissioner McKay motioned to approve the proposal from Quantum Electric, to provide and install electrical equipment at the Eureka County Airport to provide emergency backup power at the fuel island for an amount not to exceed \$6,785.00, utilizing funds from account (042-140-55010-000) in the Capital Projects Fund. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Peterbilt trucks: Mr. Rowley stated that the purchase of two model 567 Peterbilt transport trucks were needed to be used as belly dumps for the belly dump hall road used for road construction projects. They would be replacements for prior trucks that were either sold at auction or were broke down in the bone yard. Mr. Rowley and Comptroller Kim Todd explained to the Board that these trucks had been budgeted for with the account having \$735,000.00. Commissioner McKay expressed that he was only comfortable approving the purchase of one truck at this time. Chairman Goicoechea felt that if they waited on the purchase of the second truck, it would only cost them more in the long run. Chairman Goicoechea made a motion to approve the purchase of two (2) model 567 Peterbilt transport trucks from Peterbilt Truck Parts and Equipment (Sourcewell Contract #060920), for an amount not to exceed \$430,000.00 (\$409,466.00 plus a 5% contingency), utilizing funds budgeted in fiscal year 2023 for capital outlay from account (020-106-55010-000) in the Road Fund. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-1, with Commissioner McKay voting nay.

Advanced Step Hire at Landfill: Mr. Rowley explained to the Board that he was asking for an advanced step hire for an applicant for the advertised County Landfill Equipment Operator I/II position at a range 122 step 4. He stated that this person would bring 18 years of experience and a CDL to the position. He said that it would replace an outgoing FTE that was at a range 125 step 16. He stated that this candidate also had a background in the waste industry. HR Director Heidi Whimple also stated to the Board that the County would still see a cost savings even with the advanced step hire. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve authorizing Public Works to advance step

hire for Landfill Equipment Operator II position, Range 122/Step 4. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Hiring Freeze Waiver: Mr. Rowley told the Board that he had another landfill Equipment Operator I/II employee vacate the position. He wanted to get this position filled while he still had a hiring pool of qualified candidates that had applied for the other open position. Commissioner Sharkozy made the motion to approve the Hiring Freeze Waiver Justification and authorize Public Works to fill the position of Landfill Equipment Operator I/II. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Promotion requests for casual Lifeguards: Mr. Rowley explained to the Board that he had 4 casual employees at the Eureka Swimming Pool recently obtain Lifeguard and CPR certifications. He wanted to get them on the schedule as lifeguards but needed to promote them so that they could be paid accordingly. Commissioner Sharkozy made a motion to approve the promotion requests for 4 casual employees to Lifeguard at the Eureka County Swimming Pool. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

SHERIFF

Credit Card Increase Request: Sheriff Jesse Watts stated to the Board that he would like to request an immediate Credit Card Increase of \$1,500.00 each for Sergeant Miles Umina and himself to travel to Las Vegas to attend the AXON Tasercon on January 22-27, 2023. He explained that the reason for the immediate request of funds was so that they could benefit from an early registration discount of \$200 per person. Commissioner Sharkozy made the motion to approve the increase and Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Advanced Step Hire for Dispatcher I applicant: Undersheriff Tyler Thomas stated to the Board that they had an applicant for the advertised Dispatcher I position that had received previous training and experience consistent with the requirements of the position. He also remarked that this applicant had tested the highest he had seen as Under Sheriff and that Clara had seen in the past two years. Commissioner McKay made the motion to approve the Advanced Step Hire for Dispatcher I applicant to Range 117/Step 2. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Advanced Step Hire for Lieutenant applicant: Sheriff Watts was requesting an Advanced Step Hire for a Lieutenant applicant to Range 128/Step 26. He stated that the applicant for the Lieutenant position had not actually applied for the job. He said that this person wanted to make sure that the Board would approve hiring at an Advanced Step before the application was processed and upon approval of the Board, the person would apply today. Heidi Whimple, HR Director then asked if she could add that the County has a process that the Commissioners have directed everyone to follow to ensure it is a fair process for anyone interested in the position and as of the meeting there had been no utilization of the applicant portal and therefore there is no applicant. Chairman Goicoechea agreed with the HR Director that there isn't an applicant to consider for an advanced step hire. Commissioner McKay agreed that it sounded like the person be a great candidate but felt the process wasn't followed. Chairman Goicoechea asked when the applicant would want to start and Sheriff Watts replied that he would begin on January 4, 2023. Chairman Goicoechea then stated that if the candidate applied then an

advanced step hire request could go on the January 3rd agenda. Sheriff Watts agreed. The agenda item was tabled for January 3, 2023.

Advance Check Payment for Undersheriff Thomas: Undersheriff Thomas discussed with the Board and also Comptroller Kim Todd the best way to handle a payment of \$1,300.00 for two additional off-site training trips while also attending the FBI National Academy in Quantico Virginia. He was requesting a Check be cut prior to the trip as opposed to using his County Credit Card that could be denied for out of state use. After discussion it was agreed that the check would be the better choice. Commissioner Sharkozy made the Motion to approve the advance check payment of \$1,300.00 to Undersheriff Tyler Thomas for his attendance of two off-site training trips while attending the FBI National Academy, Session #285, January 2023- March 2023. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Permanent Credit Card limit increase: Sheriff Jesse Watts asked the Board if they would consider a permanent increase to \$2,000.00 for the credit cards issued to the Sheriff, Undersheriff and Lieutenant. Additionally, he requested a permanent increase to \$1,500.00 on the credit cards issued to the Sergeants and Communications Supervisor. He felt that the increase would cover expenditures that happen between Board meetings, such as helping indigent. Chairman Goicoechea noted for the record that Sheriff Watts had recently had to help an indigent in the amount of \$455. Commissioner Sharkozy stated that he felt if the Board were to approve the increases, then they would be going backward on policy that had already been set in place. Chairman Goicoechea also noted that that would put a total limit of \$17,000.00 just for the Sheriff's office and the total County limit was set at \$30,000.00. He also noted that the Lieutenant position as of the meeting was still vacant. He suggested only increasing the Sheriff and the Undersheriff's credit limit. Commissioner McKay made a motion to increase the credit limit to \$2,000.00 for the Sheriff and the Undersheriff only and that all others would remain at the current limit. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

NATURAL RESOURCES:

Report: Jake Tibbitts, Natural Resources Manager gave an update to the Board on current and emerging issues affecting Eureka County. He stated that he had attended a meeting with the applicants for the Jersey Valley wildlife water right. He wanted transparency that there would likely be an agreement on the matter brought forward for the Boards consideration sometime in January. He reported that on the 30th of November 2022 I80 Gold held a town hall meeting at the Opera House that he attended. He touched on the fact that with what he had learned at the presentation, it was clear the mine would be a part of the community for possibly decades. He felt that he appreciated I80 Gold's transparency with the community. He said they had been great to work with and he believed they would be a good community partner moving forward. He then reported that on the 9th of December 2022, he went to Winnemucca to attend the Humboldt River Basin Water Authority meeting and he touched on items that were mentioned there like they voted to support the Desert Research Institute and the Cloud Seeding program and directed it be taken back to the member counties and conservation districts to consider contributions as it was done in the past. He also reported meeting with the BLM on the 12th of December 2022. On December 13th, 2022 he reported holding interviews for his Department Assistant position and thanked HR Director Heidi Whimple for help in the

process. He then mentioned that also on the 13th the State engineer came out and held a meeting for the Diamond Valley Groundwater Management Plan that is an annual meeting required under the plan. At the meeting the engineer gave an update that in the 2022 irrigation season in Diamond Valley, 60,500-acre feet of water was pumped out of the basin which was a substantial effort in conservation by the farmers with that number being 20,000-acre feet less water than they were pumping a few years ago. Also, on the 13th of December Mr. Tibbitts reported attending the Green Link North Project Public Workshop which is the big renewable energy power line coming through. On the 14th of December, he reported attending the Greater Sage Grouse EIS Land Use Plan amendment version 4.0 meeting with Chairman Goicoechea. He also updated the Board on the Fallon Range Training Complex expansion that did pass the Senate and was sent to the President's desk to be signed. This would put into effect the expansion of the Naval Air Space for the Fallon Range. He reported that Joe Luby had sent a letter of resignation from the County Advisory Board to manage Wildlife as well as NRAC. He was hoping to find someone to fill the seats.

Renewable Energy Project: Mr. Tibbitts discussed with the Board his concerns about future county issues related to renewable energy projects coming to Eureka County. He asked for the Board to consider proposing a resolution or other appropriate mechanism establishing Eureka County's policies regarding renewable energy project siting and development including without limitation associated land use considerations and mitigation of impacts. Discussion ensued between Mr. Tibbitts, the Board and District Attorney Ted Beutel. Consensus was obtained that the Board give Mr. Tibbitts direction to bring a resolution back to the Board at a future meeting to outline the County's policy on renewable energy. No motion was made on the agenda item.

Changes to MOU with BLM on the GLNP: Mr. Tibbitts reported that he received the MOU from the BLM and did some redline changes. Commissioner Sharkozy made a motion to approve the changes suggested by Mr. Tibbitts to cooperating agency MOU with BLM on the Environmental Impact Statement/Resource Management Plan Amendment (EIS/RMPA) for the Greenlink North Project (GLNP). Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Changes to MOU with BLM on the Greater Sage Grouse Land Use Plan: Mr. Tibbitts reported that like the prior agenda item, he had made suggested changes for clarification to the MOU and requested that the Board accept these changes to be sent back for BLM consideration. Commissioner McKay moved to approve the changes suggested by Mr. Tibbitts to cooperating agency MOU with BLM on the EIS process for the Greater Sage-grouse Land Use Plan. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Response to Agri-Solar proposal: Mr. Tibbitts explained to the Board the proposal by the Nature Conservancy of a feasibility study in the County on Ag land being converted to land being used for Agri Solar. Chairman Goicoechea recommended direction to Mr. Tibbitts to find out more information on the funding behind the proposal and the dollar amount. He then directed Mr. Tibbitts to bring it back to the Board at a future meeting for consideration and possible funding. No action was taken on the item.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Goicoechea reported that he did receive the NACO annual assessments and that it needed to be placed on the next agenda. District Attorney Ted Beutel also requested that the August 5th Draft Minutes be placed on the next agenda for approval. It was also mentioned that scheduling of Budget meetings needed to take place. There was no other correspondence.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND DISCUSSION

Chairman Goicoechea called for public comments in Eureka and Crescent Valley; there were none.

Agenda Items: Discussion ensued with the Board and Comptroller Kim Todd on dates and times to schedule Budget meetings. It was decided to schedule them for the afternoon of the 19th of January 2023. Jeb suggested capital outlay issues to be discussed during that meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner McKay seconded the motion; all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 1:08 pm.

Approved by vote of the Board this 6th day of April, 2023.

/s/ Rich McKay

Rich McKay, Chairman

I, Katherine J. Bowling, Clerk Recorder of Eureka County, acknowledge and accept the attached minutes as approved by the Board of Eureka County Commissioners.

/s/ Kathy Bowling

Katherine J. Bowling, Clerk Recorder