

**BOARD OF EUREKA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
November 21, 2023 MEETING MINUTES**

STATE OF NEVADA)
 : ss
COUNTY OF EUREKA)

CALL TO ORDER

1. Approval of the agenda notice with addition of any emergency item and/or deletion of any item. *Unless otherwise stated, items may be taken out of the order presented on the agenda, at the direction of the Chair. (For Possible Action)*
2. Pledge of allegiance.

The Board of County Commissioners met pursuant to law on November 21, 2023. Present were Chairman Rich McKay, Vice Chair Michael Sharkozy, Commissioner Marty Plaskett, and Deputy Clerk II Jackie Berg. The meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. The interactive video conferencing system was connected between Crescent Valley and Eureka for the entire meeting.

Approval of Agenda: The 9:40 a.m. Item was tabled. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve the agenda with the change. It was seconded by Commissioner Plaskett. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Public comment and discussion. *Notice: No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item until the matter has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action will be taken. Public comment may be limited to three (3) minutes per person. Public comment may be allowed on “Action” items, in addition to the two times specified on the agenda. (Discussion)*

The Chairman called for public comments; Crescent Valley had none. Commissioner Plaskett requested a moment of silence to remember Diamond Valley residents Dave Betschart and Mary Damele, who both recently passed away. Audience member Jesse Watts congratulated the 2023 Eureka Vandal Football Team on their State Championship.

2. Consider items requiring action to be placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting. *Notice: The public is welcome to request agenda items for future meetings during the Public Comment period, or may consult with one or more of the Board of Commissioners to request agenda items for future meetings. (Discussion)*

None at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes for the September 5, 2023, meeting. **(For Possible Action)**

This Item was tabled.

COUNTY COMPTROLLER – Kim Todd, Comptroller

1. Payment of expenditures. *Notice: Expenditures received after action has been taken under this Comptroller section may be presented and acted upon throughout the day.* **(For Possible Action)**

Comptroller Kim Todd presented expenditures to the Board. Commissioner Sharkozy asked about the canine program expense at the Sheriff's Office, thinking the canine program was previously dissolved with the retirement of their last dog. Audience member Sheriff Watts noted that the ECSO recently received a donated canine of which the ECSO accepted.

Chairman McKay asked about a service contract related to the TV Board and its subscription fees. Other various expenditures were questioned and reviewed. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$1,095,141.95. Comptroller Todd requested to include \$1.86 (six-month item). It was seconded by Commissioner Plaskett. All in favor; motion carried 3-0.

2. Review Fund Balance Report. **(Discussion)**

The Board reviewed the current fund balances.

COMMISSIONERS

1. Discuss, approve, or deny adopting a proclamation declaring January 2024 as National Radon Action Month in Eureka County. **(For Possible Action)**

This is an annual declaration. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve. It was seconded by Commissioner Plaskett. All in favor; motion carried 3-0.

Proclamation Radon 2024

WHEREAS, the great state of Nevada, known for its natural beauty and diverse landscapes, is home to a unique geological feature - an abundance of surface uranium, making it the leading state in the United States with this natural resource; and **WHEREAS**, uranium is harnessed for various beneficial uses, including nuclear energy production, medical applications, and scientific research;

WHEREAS, it is crucial to recognize that while uranium has beneficial applications, it also poses potential dangers when it naturally breaks down into radon gas, a colorless, odorless, naturally occurring radioactive gas that can endanger the health and well-being of our residents;

WHEREAS, radon gas occurs naturally when Uranium breaks down, silently seeping into the homes of our residents;

WHEREAS, it has come to our attention that many Nevada residents remain unaware of the hidden danger lurking within their homes, known as radon - a colorless, odorless, naturally occurring radioactive gas, which stands as the primary cause of lung cancer among nonsmokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer in smokers;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that approximately 21,000 people in the United States tragically lose their lives each year due to lung cancer caused by indoor radon exposure. Astonishingly, lung and bronchus cancer claim more lives each year than any other form of cancer;

WHEREAS, lung cancer, impacting more women than breast cancer, poses a higher risk to Nevadans compared to the national average;

WHEREAS, it is a fact that one in four homes in Nevada contains elevated levels of radon. Remarkably, any home in Nevada could harbor elevated radon levels, even when neighboring homes do not. Living in a home with an average radon level of 4 picocuries per liter of air poses a risk comparable to smoking half a pack of cigarettes a day;

WHEREAS, it is the right of home buyers to know the radon level of any home they consider purchasing;

WHEREAS, the importance of radon testing cannot be overstated, as it is the sole means to determine whether a home contains elevated radon levels. This testing is not only easy and free but also opens the door to potential mitigation efforts that can make homes safer;

WHEREAS, the University of Nevada, Reno Extension's Nevada Radon Education Program and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency stand firmly in support of initiatives aimed at motivating all Nevada residents to act by testing their homes for radon, mitigating elevated radon levels, and promoting new construction with radon-reducing materials and features.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board/Elected Official/Org, do hereby proclaim January 2024, as

“NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH”
In Nevada

ADOPTED this 21st day of November, 2023

Signature : /s/ Rich McKay _____

Rich McKay, Chairman
Eureka County Board of Commission

2. Discuss, approve, or deny signing Interlocal Contract Between Public Agencies with the Division of Child & Family Services for reimbursement of costs incurred by Eureka County for forensic medical examinations of domestic violence victims beginning October 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025. *Note: Passage of AB 257 amended State law to require that counties pay for these exams.* **(For Possible Action)**

It was noted by District Attorney Ted Beutel that there is a monthly reporting requirement attached to this contract regardless of whether there is activity or not. Mr. Beutel advised the Board to determine what department would be responsible for these monthly reports. He also noted that tracking these costs is difficult as it is not triggered by law enforcement, but is triggered by care. Victims may seek care outside of the State or in any other County, he said. Discussion ensued regarding who the reporting responsibility would fall on. The Comptroller's Office was mentioned. Communication with William Bee Ririe was also determined as a necessary contact. Audience member Sherriff Watts informed the Board that he was recently made aware of this issue. He was informed that healthcare providers within Nevada will complete a form that has the victim's County of residence on it. This would then be forwarded to the local Sheriff's Office. The DA recommended approval of this contract noting that it would allow for reimbursement of funds. Commissioner Plaskett moved to approve the Interlocal Contract and also a follow-up with the Comptroller's Office and William Bee Ririe. It was seconded by Commissioner Sharkozy. All in favor, motioned carried 3-0.

AMBULANCE & EMS – Kenny Sanders, EMS Director

1. Update report on ambulance and emergency services. **(Discussion)**

Shealene French appeared before the Board with an update on services for the month of October. A total of 25 runs were reported with nine in the Townsite of Eureka and eight in the Townsite of Crescent Valley. Four runs were reported in the outlying area of Crescent Valley, three in the outlying area of Eureka and one outside of the County. EMS will be hosting Santa on December 9th in Eureka. She reported that Crescent Valley will host their own Santa at their Parade of Lights event.

2. Discuss, approve, or deny a one-time credit limit increase of \$500.00 (\$1,500.00 total) in December on the County credit card issued to Eric Oakes to cover travel and lodging costs related to Advanced EMT training in Las Vegas December 3-9, 2023. **(For Possible Action)**

Ms. French asked if this increase could be approved this week as an advanced payment for Mr. Oakes' room otherwise the cost could go up another \$100. Mr. Oakes will be taking his practical training for his advanced EMT certificate. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve and it was seconded by Commissioner Plaskett. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

1. Pursuant to NRS 361.300, discuss, approve, or deny adopting a resolution directing the County Assessor to post and publish notice of completion and availability of the secured tax roll, which includes a list of all taxpayers on the secured roll in Eureka County, along with total valuation of properties on which they will pay taxes. **(For Possible Action)**

Mr. Mears explained that NRS 361.300 requires a Resolution by the Board to publish the Tax Roll. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve and it was seconded by Commissioner Plaskett. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

**RESOLUTION
OF THE EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY ASSESSOR TO PREPARE
AND PUBLISH A LIST OF ALL TAXPAYERS ON THE SECURED TAX ROLL
IN THE COUNTY, AND THE TOTAL VALUATION OF PROPERTY ON WHICH
THEY WILL SEVERALLY PAY TAXES PURSUANT TO N.R.S. 361.300

WHEREAS, Nevada Revised Statute requires that the County Assessor be directed by Board Resolution to prepare and publish the secured tax roll annually.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eureka County Board of Commissioners does hereby direct the County Assessor prepare and publish a list of all taxpayers on the 2024-2025 secured tax roll in the County, and the total valuation of property on which they will severally pay taxes, pursuant to N.R.S. 361.300;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Eureka County Board of Commissioners does hereby direct the County Assessor to cause such list and valuations to be published on the Eureka County website on or before January 1st of the fiscal year in which assessments are made and a public notice be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the County that said list will also be printed and made publicly available at the Eureka County Assessor’s Office and available via the County website.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 21th day of November, 2023.

THOSE VOTING AYE: Commissioner Rich McKay
 Commissioner Michael Sharkozy
 Commissioner Marty Plaskett

THOSE VOTING NAY: None
THOSE ABSENT: None

/s/ Rich McKay

RICH MCKAY, CHAIRMAN
EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST: /s/ Jackie Berg
JACKIE BERG, COMMISSIONER CLERK

TREASURER – Pernecia Johnson, Treasurer

1. Review Treasurer’s Report for October 2023. (Discussion)

The Commissioners reviewed the Treasurer’s Report for the month of October 2023.

SHERIFF – Jesse Watts, Sheriff

1. Discuss, approve, or deny ratifying the emergency increase of \$200.00 (\$700.00 total) on the County credit card issued to Marcia Brown to cover lodging expenses on November 9th related to training in Elko. (For Possible Action)

Sheriff Watts appeared before the Board and explained that Ms. Brown’s previous lodging fee related to prior training in Elko incurred a service fee that the Sheriff’s Office was unaware of at that time. The increase is needed to pay this additional service fee. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve and it was seconded by Commissioner Plaskett. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

2. Discuss, approve, or deny ratifying out-of-state travel to Oregon on October 16-17, 2023, for Deputy Flanagan to acquire a K9 dog for the K9 Unit. (For Possible Action)

Sheriff Watts appeared before the Board noting that this canine is a donation from another unit located in Oregon. He also noted that Deputy Flanagan has over 15 years of experience in canine handling. Sheriff Watts noted that Deputy Flanagan is currently going through the certification process necessary for dog handling and will complete his certification at the Elko County Sherriff’s Office by a Master K9 Instructor for the State of Nevada.

Some questions were raised regarding communicating with the Board about the dog and the program as the Board was unaware the Sheriff’s Office had brought a canine back into their department. The dog was transferred to Eureka from Oregon by Deputy Flanagan in October.

Audience member Cindy Adams asked about the health of the dog, if the handler has been introduced to the dog, and the background of the dog. Sheriff Watts noted that Deputy Flanagan had traveled to Oregon October 16th and 17th to be introduced to the animal. He also noted that the dog is 2 ½ years old, has a clean bill of health and that this dog did not work out with the prior handler. Ms. Adams asked what the dog was trained for to which Sheriff Watts noted it is trained to identify various drugs. Ms. Adams asked about taking the dog through the local restaurants and bars. Mr. Watts noted that there are stipulations and parameters when taking a K9 unit into a public place and that you need an ordinance that supports such inspections. It was noted that the County Liquor Board ‘s ordinance is currently under review.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to ratify the out-of-state travel and it was seconded by Commissioner Plaskett. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

3. Discuss, approve, or deny credit limit increases of \$1,000.00 each on the credit cards issued to Sergeant Umina (\$2,000.00 total) and Sheriff Watts (\$3,000.00 total) in December for lodging costs related to attendance of LLRMI (Legal & Liability Risk Management Institute) Advanced Homicide & Death Investigation Conference in Las Vegas December 3-9, 2023 (includes travel dates). **(For Possible Action)**

Sheriff Watts appeared before the Board and explained that this class is part of their continuing education for the International Association of Coronary (Coroner) Medical Examiners. Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve and it was seconded by Commissioner Sharkozy. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

COUNTY FACILITIES – Jeb Rowley, Public Works Director

1. Report on activities and projects at County managed facilities. **(Discussion)**

Swimming Pool – 165 swimmers for the month of October

Opera House – 152 visitors for October

Museum – 186 visitors and just over \$1,000 in merchandise sales in October. Joyce Jeppesen has been working with the Kitchen family on acquiring some oil paintings for the Museum

Eureka Landfill - 486 yards and 125 tons of solid waste, 1,150 yards of c & d for a total of 688 deliveries to the landfill in October

Crescent Valley – there was a significant increase in what was brought in for cleanup. Atlas Towing had seven bins go out in October

PUBLIC WORKS – Jeb Rowley, Public Works Director

1. Report on Public Works projects and activities. **(Discussion)**

Public Works Director Jeb Rowley updated the Board on various maintenance projects. The County crew has been checking the duct heaters and heating systems in County buildings. Work is continuing on the fair building in Eureka. The Annex skylight has been installed as well as the roofing repairs there. Final meter readings and winter insulation projects are being conducted. There was an issue at the Eureka town springs with aeration of which has been rectified. Mr. Rowley noted that there are ten springs tied into the water system and they had to recalibrate how all the springs are flowing into the system. The broom sweeper in Eureka was received. A plow truck is still out of service and is likely going to be another two months out. Culverts on the Three Bars Road have been replaced. Mr. Rowley mentioned ES Chat and an upcoming demonstration for that. He noted that he would be coming back with an additional budget request for any other items as related to ES Chat that they may want. He noted that the initial cost is \$10,000 and about \$1,000 a year in subscription fees for additional radio LTE devices.

2. Pursuant to Personnel Policy 5.7.3, consider authorizing Public Works to make an advanced step hire for the position of Equipment Operator I at Range 117/Step 7 on the Eureka County wage and salary scale. **(For Possible Action)**

Mr. Rowley noted that he had sent a letter in support of this advance hire stating the qualifications of the individual in mind. Among these qualifications are 17 plus years of CDL experience. Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve and it was seconded by Commissioner Plaskett. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Review correspondence and place requests for action items on the next agenda. **(Discussion)**

These items include: Conservation District agenda; free holiday lighting notice from the local power company; NACO agenda and annual meeting summary; notice on Nevada Open Meeting law and good governance practices; Nevada Water Resources Association 2024 Annual Conference Week January 29 through February 1, 2024; Nevada Vision of Environmental Protection Nevada Dept. of Health and Human Services; Ely and Battle Mountain BLM notices; and America First Works.

2. Commissioner reports on pertinent correspondence or other matters. **(Discussion)**

There was nothing reported.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Public comment and discussion. *Notice: No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item until the matter has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action will be taken. Public comment may be limited to three (3) minutes per person. Public comment may be allowed on "Action" items, in addition to the two times specified on the agenda.* **(Discussion)**

The Chairman called for public comment; Crescent Valley had none. In Eureka, audience member Cindy Adams approached the Board requesting a resolution for the 2023 State Champion Vandal football team be presented to the team. This is the first time the Vandal football team has taken the State title in over two decades, she said.

2. Consider items requiring action to be placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting. *Notice: The public is welcome to request agenda items for future meetings during the Public Comment period, or may consult with one or more of the Board of Commissioners to request agenda items for future meetings.* **(Discussion)**

Chairman McKay requested that a Resolution honoring the 2023 Eureka Vandal Football Team's State Championship be put on the next agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

I. Adjournment of meeting.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve and it was seconded by Commissioner Plaskett. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

Prepared and respectfully submitted by Garney Damele, Deputy Clerk.

Approved by vote of the Board this 16th day of April 2024.

— /s/ Rich Mckay
Rich McKay, Chairman

ATTEST:

/s/ Kathy Bowling
Katherine J. Bowling, Clerk