

# BOARD OF EUREKA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

December 17, 2024 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, in the direction of the Chair. **(For Possible Action)**
2. Pledge of allegiance.

The Board of Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law on December 17, 2024. Present were Chairman Rich McKay, Vice Chair Marty Plaskett, Commissioner Mike Schoenwald, District Attorney, Ted Beutel and Clerk Recorder Kathy Bowling. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. The interactive video conferencing system was connected between Crescent Valley and Eureka for the entire meeting.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the agenda with the edit to Sheriff item #3, changing the price from \$2,8887.50 to \$2,887.50. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

## 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 comments 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)*

Chairman McKay called for public comment, Crescent Valley audience member Emily Whittlesey commented that she is a photographer and will be doing a photo essay on the old buildings at townsite of Robinson before they are demolished by Nevada Gold for the new Robinson mine. She asked the Board for approval on hanging the pictures in the Crescent Valley Community Center. She has approached Nevada Gold on the project, and they have agreed to cover the cost for the hanging equipment for the pictures. She also commented that, if need be, she can have it on the next agenda. Commissioner Schoenwald told Emily that he would personally help her with the project. Chairman McKay called for public comment in Eureka, an audience member asked if there could be public comment during Commissioners #3. Chairman McKay approved public comment during the item. Jeb Rowley also commented on Emily Whittlesey's picture project that Public Works will help find a wall in the Community Center to hang her pictures. County Clerk Kathy Bowling read a letter that was emailed to her and asked to be read during public comment. Retired Sheriff, Jesse Watts wrote a letter commenting on Sheriff item # 4, he commented on the lack of contract visibility to the public. He questioned the details of the contract; travel expenses, the work



hours, will the consulting be in person or via phone. He asked why no one has reached out to him for help regarding the budget and urged the Board to deny the item request.

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)*

The Board discussed putting Emily Whittlesey's topic on the next agenda.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes for November 15, 2024 and December 3, 2024 Commission meetings. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve November 15, 2024 and December 3, 2024 Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

## 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)*

The Board along with Comptroller, Kim Todd reviewed the expenditures.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve expenditures in the amount of \$932,218.64 with the passthroughs to Nevada Department Taxation Room tax of \$626.44, Nevada State Controller-School Taxes of \$39,080.52, Nevada State Controller of \$7,743.01, Nevada Division of Minerals of \$6,230.00, Washoe County Crime Lab of \$132 for a total of \$53,811.97. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

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

The Board reviewed the current Fund Balance Report.

3. Discuss, approve or deny updating the travel per diem amounts and adding an additional per diem for Las Vegas and Carson/Reno/Tahoe with an effective date of January 1, 2025. **(For Possible Action)**

Comptroller Kim Todd explained to the Board that with the current prices of restaurants specifically in Las Vegas and Carson/Reno/Tahoe she recommends increasing the travel per diem amounts to help cover those expenses. For those cities the breakfast will increase \$3, lunch will increase \$1 and dinner will increase \$2.

Commissioner Schoenwald motioned to approve updating the travel per diem amounts and adding an additional per diem for Las Vegas and Carson/Reno/Tahoe with an effective date of January 1, 2025. Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.



1. Report on Eureka County's Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Audit. **(Discussion)**

Teri Gage with Eide Bailly, LLP reported to the Board that her independent auditor report is that Eureka has an unmodified audit, that is a clean audit, the highest level that can be achieved. On page 13 is the Statement of Net Position, Eureka County has a net position of \$156 million this past fiscal year. That amount is up about \$9 million over the previous fiscal year. The cash investments went down about \$4.9 million and there is \$18.2 million in Capital Asset additions. The largest projects were the sewer improvement, \$4.1 million and paving projects, \$9 million. \$3 million went to flood repairs. The Net Pension Liability, which is what Eureka County pays into PERS, was about \$10 million, the Post Employment Benefits Liability is about \$7.6 million. Unrestricted Net Position is \$56.2 million. Page 20 is the Statement of Revenue Expenses and change in a net position for proprietary funds. Page 21 the Statement of cash flows is a positive cash of \$1.4 million. Page 55 is the Compliance with Nevada Revised Statute; Eureka County had no noncompliance with state statute which is good to see. Page 63 is the ending fund balance for the general fund ending with \$43.3 million. Page 57 total revenues in the general fund ended with \$24.3 million. Page 62 the expenses are \$18.6 million, and the County budgeted \$32.3 million. Page 120 is the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, Eureka expended about \$1.3 million in federal funds and is subject to a single audit. Page 123 is the schedule of findings and question costs.

All reports can be found at [www.eurekacountynv.gov](http://www.eurekacountynv.gov)

2. Discuss, approve or deny accepting Eureka County's Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Audit and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report as presented. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to accept Eureka County's Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Audit and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

3. Report on Eureka County Television District's Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Audit. **(Discussion)**

Teri Gage with Eide Bailly, LLP reported to the Board that Eureka County Television District received another unmodified audit opinion. Page 9 is the Statement of Net Position, The TV District has about \$1.3 million in net position. Cash increased about \$54,000 at about \$6,000 in Capital Asset additions. TV District has no debt and no employees. The unrestricted Net Position is \$822,000. Page 15 is the general fund, the only fund for the TV District, total revenues of \$260,000 of that \$19,000 is investment earnings. Rents at different sites were up about \$4,500 from the previous fiscal year. TV District ended the year with an ending fund balance of \$822,000, expenditures were down from the previous fiscal year of about \$74,000. Page 25 Eureka County TV District had no statute violations. Page 29 schedule of findings and responses, TV District has no grant funds.

4. Discuss, approve or deny accepting Eureka County Television District's Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Audit and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report as presented. **(For Possible Action)**



Commissioner Schoenwald motioned to accept Eureka County Television District's Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Audit and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

5. Discuss, approve or deny entering into an agreement with Eide Bailly, LLC to provide audit services for Fiscal Years 2025, 2026 and 2027 for Eureka County and Eureka County Television District. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve entering into an agreement with Eide Bailly, LLC to provide audit services for Fiscal Years 2025, 2026 and 2027 for Eureka County and Eureka County Television District. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

### COMMISSIONERS-

1. Discuss, approve or deny whether to authorize an appeal or otherwise participate in the appellate review of the Diamond Valley Adjudication, Case CV-2002009 before the Seventh Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada. **(For Possible Action)**

Jake Tibbitts explained to the Board that quite a few parties have filed notices of appeal including the state engineer and the Department of Justice has filed one related to the BLM public water reserved. Jakes recommendation to the Board was to not file an independent notice of appeal but to participate in the appeals, especially related to the public water reserve issue. District Attorney Ted Beutel echoed Jakes recommendation.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to not file an independent appeal but reserve the right to participate in existing appeals, specifically regarding the public water reserve as the County sees fit. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

2. Discuss legislation being considered by the Nevada Legislature at their upcoming 2025 Session. No position on legislation will be taken by the Board at this time. **(Discussion)**

Michael Mears and Jake Tibbitts had no new information to report.

3. Discuss, approve, or deny contracting with Black Rock Resource Services LLC to complete research of historical records related to public roads in Eureka County to assist with ensuring continued public access. If contract is approved, consider designating the Natural Resources Manager to coordinate with Public Works and the Natural Resources Advisory Commission to prioritize roads for completion of this research in a phased approach. **(For Possible Action)**

Jake Tibbitts read County Code Title 9, Chapter 50 regarding Public Roads, he recommends to the Board that Eureka County hire outside help in getting the historical research done on various roads. There is currently a public road that goes through private property that has been brought to the Boards attention. Travis Peek gave a public comment, he explained that he is a business owner in Churchill County and recently bought property in Eureka County over in the Pine Valley area. The access road to the oil company that is located behind his property runs through his private property. He explained that he understands the county wanting to set a precedent when it comes to these issues, but his problem is that this is being done after the fact. He also explained that he will not just sit back and allow disregard of his rights as a property owner. The Board decided that starting



with historical research into the history of the roads will be a good place to start when dealing with public and private roads.

Commissioner Schoenwald motioned to approve contracting with Black Rock Resource Services LLC to complete research of historical records related to public roads in Eureka County to assist with ensuring continued public access. Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

4. Discuss, approve or deny appointing Michael Schoenwald as interim EMS Director to assist Shaelene French, Assistant EMS Director, with duties until a new EMS Director is hired. **(For Possible Action.)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve appointing Michael Schoenwald as interim EMS Director to assist Shaelene French, Assistant EMS Director, with duties until a new EMS Director is hired. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

**SENIOR CENTERS**-Linda Gordon, Senior Center Program Director

1. Report on activities at the Eureka Senior Center and Fannie Komp Senior Center. **(Discussion)**

Senior Center Program Director, Linda Gordon reported that for the month of November Eureka served 636 meals, Crescent Valley served 629 meals. December 17<sup>th</sup> is the Christmas lunch in Eureka and the high school band will be playing music. Crescent Valley senior center will be having their Christmas lunch December 19<sup>th</sup>. They collected \$2,257 for the month of November. Linda also reported that the new wheelchair vans got dropped off and are at the county shop getting all the necessary stickers and things to be ready to use.

**EUREKA 4-H SEWING**-Janine Hubbard, 4-H Sewing Instructor

1. Discuss, approve or deny waiving the cost for the use of the Senior Center to conduct 4-H Sewing classes, January – April 2025, one or two nights per week. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve waiving the cost for the use of the Senior Center to conduct 4-H Sewing classes, January – April 2025, one or two nights per week. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

**SAINT BRENDAN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**- Barbara Todd

1. Discuss, approve or deny waiving the cost for the use of the Opera House to hold Bingo on March 12, 2025. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve waiving the cost of the Opera House for Saint Brendan's Catholic Church to hold Bingo on March 12, 2025. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.



**UNR EUREKA EXTENSION PROGRAM-** Jessica “JJ” Hendrickson

1. Update of and presentation on program highlights with UNR Eureka Extension Program. **(Discussion)**

Jessica “JJ” Hendrickson with UNR Eureka Extension Program gave a presentation to the Board updating them on their recent activities and projects. They had 57 youth enrolled in the 4-H program this year; they completed over 170 projects. They had 22 youth participants with various livestock projects and 17 market projects auctioned during the sale. They found that the top projects that the youth enjoyed were livestock, horse, sewing, shooting sports and photography. The youth committed 540 community service hours. The volunteers and leaders contributed 800 hours back to the youth. She explained that she will be back in January to report on the results of the radon visual arts contest that is happening now until January 6<sup>th</sup>.

**The Board took a recess.**

**Chairman McKay brought the meeting back to order at 11:23 a.m.**

**HUMAN RESOURCES** – Tasha Dunlap, HR Director

1. Report on Human Resources projects and activities. **(Discussion)**

HR Director, Tasha Dunlap reported the jobs that are still open, and that they filled the mechanic position. The County staff potluck will be December 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 at the Opera House and the staff Christmas gift email has been sent out. She will be holding another department head round table in January.

2. Discuss, approve, or deny updates to the Justice Court Deputy Clerk job description. **(For Possible Action)**

Judge Rowley and Tasha Dunlap explained some of the changes to the job description; the title has been changed from Justice Court Administrative Assistant to Justice Court Deputy Clerk. They updated some of the additional duties in the job description itself.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to accept the updates to the Justice Court Deputy Clerk job description. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

3. Discuss, approve, or deny accepting the recommendation of the interview panel for Medical Services Director/Coordinator, appointing the most qualified candidate to the position, and setting a start date and salary. **(For Possible Action)**

Tasha reported that they have filled the position for Medical Services Director/Coordinator with a tentative start date of January 13<sup>th</sup> and the salary will start at a E17, Step 1.

Commissioner Schoenwald motioned to approve the recommendation of the interview panel for Medical Services Director/Coordinator, appointing the most qualified candidate to the position, with a date of January 13<sup>th</sup> and the salary will start at a E17, Step 1. Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.



4. Discuss, approve, or deny converting the EMS Director position to an EMT I, II, or III position. **(For Possible Action)**

Tasha explained that converting the EMS Director position to an EMT I, II, or III position will add a second EMT to Eureka.

Commissioner Schoenwald motioned to approve converting the EMS Director position to an EMT I, II, or III position. Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

**SHERIFF-** Miles Umina, Acting Sheriff

1. Discuss, approve or deny a \$500 increase to each of the credit cards for Dispatcher Lena Engeseth and Deputy Nicholas Harris (\$1,000.00 total) for the month of January, for costs to attend Basic Instructor Development at POST in Carson City, NV. **(For Possible Action)**

Acting Sheriff, Miles Umina and Sargent Charles Cobb explained to the Board that Dispatcher Lena Engeseth and Deputy Nicholas Harris will be attending Basic Instructor Development at POST in Carson City, NV. The credit card increase will help cover the costs of hotels and food while staying in Carson City for 5 days.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve a \$500 increase to each of the credit cards for Dispatcher Lena Engeseth and Deputy Nicholas Harris (\$1,000.00 total) for the month of January. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

2. Discuss, approve or deny a \$2,000 increase to the credit card of Sgt. C. Cobb for the month of February, for costs to attend First Line Supervisor in Carson City. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve a \$2,000 increase to the credit card of Sgt. C. Cobb for the month of February, for costs to attend First Line Supervisor training in Carson City. Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

3. Discuss, approve or deny a 2-year Contract with Neogov for Background Module to assist with Backgrounds of Civil, Deputy, and Search and Rescue Applicants performed by the Eureka County Sheriff's Office. *Note: The first-year installment will be \$2,875 which includes the subscription and Setup. The second-year installment will be \$2,887.50.* **(For Possible Action)**

The amount in the agenda item were edited at the beginning of the meeting changing the amount \$2,887.50 to \$2,875.50. Acting Sheriff Umina explained the background module will help them run background checks faster and cheaper than the other options they considered.

Commissioner Schoenwald motioned to approve a 2-year Contract with Neogov for Background Module to assist with Backgrounds of Civil, Deputy, and Search and Rescue Applicants performed by the Eureka County Sheriff's Office. Commissioner

4. Discuss, approve or deny a contract with Retired Lt. Kilgore and the Eureka County Sheriff's Office, for an amount not to exceed \$6,400.00 for 80 hours of work, to assist the Acting Sheriff and Undersheriff with the 2025-2026 Fiscal year budget, and authorize the Chairman to sign outside of the meeting. **(For Possible Action)**



Acting Sheriff Umina explained that the \$6,400.00 is for the 80 hours of work, he apologized for not including per diem, travel and room stay. He also explained that he is very new to creating and working on a budget. He has been working closely with Comptroller Kim Todd and they have been able to cut some items already, but ultimately, he is hoping for some professional help. He has cut around \$15,000 already, therefor they have the amount covered for hiring Retired Lt. Kilgore. Acting Sheriff Umina explained that the price for 80 hours of work, per diem, travel and room stay, will total \$8,464.93. Each Board member commented that they want to give Miles Umina all the tools he can to succeed and having outside help with the budget will pay off in the end.

Commissioner Schoenwald motioned to approve the contract with Retired Lt. Kilgore and the Eureka County Sheriff's Office, for an amount not to exceed \$8,464.93, and allow for Chairman McKay to sign outside of the meeting. Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

5. Conduct walk-through inspection of the Justice Facility and Detention Center (upon adjournment of the meeting). *Note: This is a discussion item only and no deliberation or action will take place during this walk-through and inspection. (Discussion)*

The Board will be attending a walk- through of the Eureka County Justice Facility and Detention Center immediately following the adjournment of the meeting.

#### **COUNTY FACILITIES** – Jeb Rowley, Public Works Director

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

Public Works Director, Jeb Rowley reported that the Opera House held many events in the month of November, they saw 400 people for events and 43 visitors for tours. The primary set of doors were replaced at the Opera House the week prior as well as the interior wooden doors at the Courthouse. The museum remains unstaffed. The pool saw 43 daily swimmers and 63 senior citizens and there are actively 9 kids on the swim team. They are still working on updating the showers in the girl's locker room at the pool. There were 443 solid waste customers at the landfill delivering 400 cubic yards. The materials and parts for the heating units at the clinic have been ordered but estimating 8 to 10 weeks. They will be working on replacing the bathroom sinks in the Crescent Valley Community Center, and plan to be done before Christmas.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS** – Jeb Rowley, Public Works Director

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

Public Works Director, Jeb Rowley reported for the Public Works department that there was a fire out near 15<sup>th</sup> street that burned approximately 40 acres of brush on BLM. They continue to update communications but are halted until spring when they can get to the towers on mountain tops. The Road crew and the water department worked on the Spring Street ditch behind the Sheriffs office. A portion of the Road crew will start crack sealing at the airport, they will be getting a rubber pot from NDOT. They have a LEPC roundtable the following day.



**NATURAL RESOURCES** – Jake Tibbitts, Natural Resources Manager

1. Report on current and emerging natural resource issues affecting Eureka County. **(Discussion)**

Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts reported that on December 5<sup>th</sup>, the scheduled Ruby Hill blast went off without a hitch. Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> Marty Plaskett, Fred Etchegaray and Jake drove to Fallon for the Central Nevada Water Authority meeting. Jake attended the Navy Fallon Range Training Complex Expansion, and there is nothing new to report. Jake attended the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council in Reno on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Jake commented on Emily Whittlesey's public comment on the Robertson mining project, that Nevada Gold Mines released a new EIS under the National Historic Preservation act and many of those buildings will be eligible for protection. Due to that there is more time than expected before demolition will start, so Emily will have plenty of time to get her photos taken.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Review correspondence. **(Discussion)**

Eureka County Clerk Recorder, Kathy Bowling read the meetings correspondence; Mt. Wheeler Power Christmas Card, Nevada Division of Water Resources budget for FY 2025/2026, Nevada Gold Mines Renewal Application, Allison MacKenzie Christmas Present, We The People calendars, letter from Jesse Watts, BLM notion of burn in Steptoe Valley, notice of the Triple B Complex Wild Horse gather, the NWRA annual conference notice January 28<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup> in Sparks, NWRA 2025 mine Water Management and 20 years of Pitt Lake science Symposium held January 27<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup> at the Nugget in Reno, BLM County Protest on Sage Grouse Lanse Use Plan.

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

The Board discussed attending the water resources update meetings on Railroad Valley and Pine Valley the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

**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 comments 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)**

Chairman McKay called for public comment, hearing none in Crescent Valley and Eureka he proceeded to the next item.

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 considered.



**ADJOURNMENT**

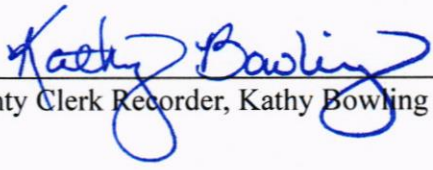
1. Adjournment of meeting.

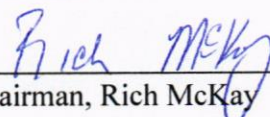
Commissioner Plaskett motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Schoenwald seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried 3-0.

*Prepared and submitted by Deputy Clerk Recorder, Katelyn Ziemann.*

*Approved this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January 2024 by the Board of Eureka County Commissioners.*

ATTEST:

  
County Clerk Recorder, Kathy Bowling

  
Chairman, Rich McKay