

# BOARD OF EUREKA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

April 16, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

STATE OF NEVADA        )  
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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 Eureka County Commissioners met pursuant to law on April 16, 2024. Present were Chairman Rich McKay, Vice Chair Michael Sharkozy, Commissioner Marty Plaskett, District Attorney Ted Beutel, and Clerk Recorder Kathy Bowling. The meeting was called to order at 9:29 a.m. the interactive video conferencing system was connected between Crescent Valley and Eureka for the entire meeting.

Approval of Agenda: Sheriff's item #1 and #3 were tabled. Commissioner Sharkozy moved to approve changes in the Agenda, Motion was seconded by Commissioner Plaskett. 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 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)*

Chairman McKay opened the floor for public comment, Crescent Valley audience member Forrest Anderson expressed that he would like to see the Board look into some of the problems they are having with the Crescent valley Clinic. Laura Shivers also commented on the state of the Crescent Valley clinic and William Bee Ririe upholding their contract. Chairman McKay called for additional public comment in Crescent Valley, seeing no more he opened the floor in Eureka. Sheriff Jesse Watts requested that a meeting be had between the Board and many County Department heads to discuss the ongoing investigation with his department. Chairman McKay called for addition public comment in Eureka, hearing no more he moved onto item #2.

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.



## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes for the November 7, 2023, November 21, 2023 and December 5, 2023 Commission meetings. **(For Possible Action)**

Sheriff Jesse Watts brought attention to the Board that there were a few spelling errors and incorrect documentation of a few association names in both of the minutes.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the agenda with the appropriate changes fixed.

Commissioner Sharkozy 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)**

Expenditures were presented by Comptroller Kim Todd.

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve expenditures for \$1,402,658.22 with the following pass throughs; Nevada Department taxation room tax \$186.44, Nevada State Controller School tax \$20,718.40, Nevada State Controller \$351,354.44, Nevada Division of Minerals \$8,030, Washoe County Crime Lab \$120. Total pass throughs of \$380,109.27. Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

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

The Board reviewed the current Fund Balance Report.

## COMMISSIONERS

1. Discuss, approve or deny a donation request from the Eureka Volunteer Firemen for an amount not to exceed \$8,800.00, utilizing funds from the Commission's miscellaneous grants account (010-001-53010- 85) to help cover the cost of fireworks for the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration. *Speakers: Michael Allen or Danny Brown* **(For Possible Action)**

Jayme Halpin appeared on behalf of the Eureka Volunteer Firemen, to ask for a donation of \$8,000.00 for fireworks for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve of a donation to the Eureka Volunteer Fire Department of \$8,000.00 for fireworks for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.



**IT DEPARTMENT**-Misty Rowley, IT Director

1. Discuss, approve or deny the following steps to connect the Crescent Valley clinic to fiber. The cost for a 1-year contract for 100Mb Symmetrical Dedicated Internet Access (DIA) is \$1,125.00/month with no special construction costs. The Rural Health Care Fund (RHC) program will cover \$731.25/month, while the County's share will be \$393.75/month.

- a. Consider sending approval to Redbud Telecom Consulting to file all FCC forms required to seek federal Rural Health Care Program funding to connect the Crescent Valley Clinic via fiber for the purpose of increased broadband internet. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve Redbud Telecom Consulting to file all FCC forms required to seek federal Rural Health Care Program funding to connect the Crescent Valley Clinic via fiber for the purpose of increased broadband internet. Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

- b. Consider allowing the IT Director to sign the Comnet contract outside of the meeting **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve allowing the IT Director to sign the Comnet contract outside of the meeting. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

2. Discuss, approve, or deny accepting Quote #Q-1039070 from KnowBe4 for a 6-month co-term subscription of PhishER Plus (cybersecurity enhancement product), for an amount not to exceed \$753.46, and authorize the IT Director to sign outside of the meeting. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve accepting Quote #Q-1039070 from KnowBe4 for a 6-month co-term subscription of PhishER Plus (cybersecurity enhancement product), for an amount not to exceed \$753.46, and authorize the IT Director to sign outside of the meeting. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

3. Discuss, approve or deny granting the IT Director authority to sign, outside of the meeting, the Addendum 4 Service Renewal from Quest for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve granting IT Director Misty Rowley authority to sign, outside of the meeting, the Addendum 4 Service Renewal from Quest for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**- Ted Beutel, District Attorney

1. Discuss, approve or deny authorizing the District Attorney to purchase an all-in-one printer, copier and scanner utilizing funds budgeted in Capital Outlay this fiscal year in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 from account 010-024-55010-000. **(For Possible Action)**

District Attorney, Ted Beutel explained to the Board they plan to purchase a new all-in-one printer, copier and scanner for an amount not to exceed \$10,000. They would then move their



current copier down to the Senior Center for them to use.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve authorizing the District Attorney to purchase an all-in-one printer, copier and scanner utilizing funds budgeted in Capital Outlay this fiscal year in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 from account 010-024-55010-000. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

### **AMBULANCE & EMS** – Kenny Sanders, EMS Director

**1. Report on ambulance and emergency services. (Discussion)**

EMS Director, Kenny Sanders presented a report on ambulance and emergency services. He reported that in March they had 16 calls for service, 9 of those calls were out of Eureka and 7 from Crescent Valley. They transported 2 to Elko and 2 to Ely, 1 transfer to Medics Air. There were 11 patient refusals or cancels prior to arriving on scene. He reported that they had 62 calls from January through March, 30 were from Eureka and 32 from Crescent Valley. They had 15 transports to Battle Mountain, 13 transports to Elko, 4 to Ely and 6 to Medics Air.

**2. Quarterly update on mandatory ambulance bill write-offs for Medicaid and Medicare Accounts. (For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve mandatory ambulance bill write-offs for Medicaid and Medicare Accounts for the first quarter of 2024, a total of \$785. Broken down as \$520 for January, \$0 for February, and \$265 for March. Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

### **PUBLIC HEARING-EUREKA COUNTY TAX RATE HEARING-**

*Notice was given that the Board of County Commissioners would hold a public hearing on April 16, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. to invite comments from members of the public on the proposed tax rates before final action is taken to adopt tax rates for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 (Fiscal Year 2024-2025).*

### **Chairman McKay opened the Eureka County Tax Rate Public Hearing at 10:04 a.m.**

**1. Presentation from County Assessor, Michael Mears, on the proposed tax rate and what outcome a tax rate would provide should the Board decide to move forward with an increase. The Board will also review tax rates of all other Nevada counties. (Discussion)**

The Eureka County Tax Rate Public Hearing began with a presentation from the County Assessor, Michael Mears. He explained that as the County Assessor he evaluates property in the county, he does not do anything with property taxes or collection of property taxes. He started with net proceeds of mineral tax, and that minerals tax is the actual tax on the mineral after it's been extracted, processed and sold at market, it is not the property taxes on the mines. He explained that Nevada State legislature tax is set at \$0.17. Improved property qualifying property tax cap is 3% per year, to see if someone qualifies for this he encouraged people to contact the Assessor's office.

**2. Open public hearing and invite comments on the proposed tax rates for the various political subdivisions in the County for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. (Discussion)**

Chairman McKay opened the public hearing for comments. Crescent Valley audience member Forrest Anderson disagreed with the tax increase and expressed that the Board distribute the taxes



evenly through the county. Eureka audience member Allen Smith commented on the expense of the painting of the water tower project, and questioned why it was so expensive. Crescent Valley audience member Tracy Mellard asked the Board once there is a tax increase what is the plan with the extra funds. She also urged the Board to be up front with where the extra money from the taxes will be sent within the County. Eureka audience member Wayne Hage was not in support of the tax increase and he asked the Board to present proposals with the County's plan to save money. He also asked that the Board be transparent with curtailing true subsidies. Crescent Valley audience member Laura Shivers asked the Board for a detailed list of subsidizing with the tax increase. Public Works Director, Jeb Rowley explained that while County spending may look excessive sometimes, he encourages the public to understand that inflation in the economy as well as Eureka and Crescent Valleys remoteness plays a very large role into why projects around the county costs so much and why bids on projects seem very high.

3. Discuss, approve or deny adopting the proposed tax rates for the various political subdivisions in the County for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve proposed tax rates for the various political subdivisions in the County for the 2024-2025 fiscal year of \$.20. Commissioner Sharkozy voted against the tax increase. Chairman McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried, 2-1.

**Chairman McKay closed the Public Hearing at 12:26 p.m.**

**Chairman McKay resumed the Board of County Commissioners meeting at 12:26 p.m.**

**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 gave a report on activities at both the Eureka Senior Center and the Fannie Komp Senior Center. Crescent Valley meal count was 766 and Eureka's was 795. She reported that all the staff at both locations are taking CPR classes.

**SHERIFF-** Jesse Watts, Sheriff

1. Discussion on update of Administrative and Attorney General Investigation launched by the Eureka County Board of Commissioners into Pay Code used by ECSO Employees for tasks completed. **(Discussion)**

Tabled

2. Discuss, approve or deny a \$500.00 credit card increase for Lt. Miles Umina, in the month of May 2024, to cover Hotel Expenses for attending Firearms Training in Carson City, Nevada. *Note: Lt. Umina's current credit card limit is \$1,000.00.* **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve of a \$500.00 credit card increase for Lt. Miles Umina, in the month of May 2024, to cover Hotel Expenses for attending Firearms Training in Carson City, Nevada. Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.



3. Discuss, approve or deny declaring multiple firearms surplus property to be able to trade in for upgraded firearms through approved vendor. (For Possible Action)

Tabled

4. Discuss, approve or deny the exchange of two Community Service Officers previously budgeted positions, for one Deputy Sheriff position and one Detective position in the 2024/2025 Budget. (For Possible Action)

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve the exchange of two Community Service Officers previously budgeted positions, for one Deputy Sheriff position and one Detective position in the 2024/2025 Budget. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

5. Discuss, approve or deny out of State Travel and credit card increase for Sheriff Watts to attend the National Sheriff's Association Conference in Oklahoma City, OK from June 22nd-28th, 2024. The Sheriff requests a \$500.00 increase in the month of April to pay registration fees and to book flights. Note: Sheriff Watts' current credit card limit is \$2,000.00. (For Possible Action)

Item tabled.

6. Discuss, approve or deny a \$1,000.00 credit card increase in the month of June, 2024, for Sheriff Watts. This increase will cover hotel room charges during the out of state travel to The National Sheriff's Association Conference in Oklahoma City, Ok, June 22nd-28th. Note: Sheriff Watts' current credit card limit is \$2,000.00. (For Possible Action)

Item tabled.

#### **TREASURER** – Pernecia Johnson, Treasurer

1. Review affidavit of mailing delinquent tax notices for real property parcels. **(Discussion)**

Treasurer, Pernecia Johnson reviewed the delinquent tax notices for real property parcels, she sent out 230 first year delinquent notices, 73 second year delinquent parcels certified mail and 29 delinquent parcels certified mail.

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

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

Public works director, Jeb Rowley reported on projects and activities with County managed facilities, the building and grounds crew are getting ready for spring by working on sprinkler systems. The Museum had 47 visitors in March, the Opera House had 411 attended events; such as The High School Band, Men of Worth, and the VFW celebration. They are continuing to prepare the dump for free dump days.

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

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



Jeb Rowley reported that FEMA has released more money to the state for Disaster Declaration BR 4708, Eureka has supported 5 projects during the preliminary damage assessments. That assessment included Three Bars, El Paso, 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Street, and Duckwater. To date there has been \$3 million designated from FEMA for those locations. Over winter there was several issues with meter pits in the Devils Gate GID, so he anticipates those will be on the next meetings agenda.

2. Discuss, approve or deny accepting lowest responsible bid received on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, for construction of SRE Building and Lighted Windsocks at Eureka Airport, and authorize the Chairman to execute award contingent upon FAA funding of project determined at a later date. *Note: Engineer's Estimated Value for this project is \$700,000.00. (For Possible Action)*

Jonathan Lespearance with Lumis Associates explained to the board that with the remoteness of Eureka, distance with which they have to bring in materials, and bringing in crews, they are expecting the schedule to be about 1 year out and as such explains why their bid seems so high. Commissioner Plaskett motioned to acknowledge SNC as the most responsive bidder, with the understanding that Public Works is going to return to the Board with different figures. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

3. Discuss, approve or deny signing contract Townsite Phase 2 Road and Utility Improvement Project GMP, PWP-EU2024-311, with Sierra Nevada Construction for a Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$5,905,451.00, utilizing funds from RTC Capital Outlay (025-110-55010-000). **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett moved to approve signing contract Townsite Phase 2 Road and Utility Improvement Project GMP, PWP-EU2024-311, with Sierra Nevada Construction for a Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$5,905,451.00, utilizing funds from RTC Capital Outlay (025-110-55010-000). Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

4. Discuss, approve or deny a proposal from Lumos & Associates for engineering and construction services during Phase 2 of the Eureka County Road & Utility Project in the amount of \$746,800.00, utilizing funds from RTC Capital Outlay (025-110-55010-000). **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Sharkozy motioned to approve a proposal from Lumos & Associates for engineering and construction services during Phase 2 of the Eureka County Road & Utility Project in the amount of \$746,800.00, utilizing funds from RTC Capital Outlay (025-110-55010-000). Commissioner Plaskett seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

5. Discuss, approve or deny purchasing a K770 Husqvarna saw, for an amount not to exceed \$1,500.00 utilizing funds budgeted for capital outlay (046-194-55010-000) in the Crescent Valley Town Fund. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve purchasing a K770 Husqvarna saw, for an amount not to exceed \$1,500.00 utilizing funds budgeted for capital outlay (046-194-55010-000) in the Crescent Valley Town Fund. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.



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

Natural Resources Manager, Jake Tibbitts reported on current and emerging natural resource issues affecting Eureka County. Jake had a call with NDEP, Matt Donaldson they are committed to working with Eureka County more closely especially on mining permitting and notice of explorations. On April 5<sup>th</sup> him and Commissioner Plaskett attended a legislative Natural Resource Committee virtually. April 10<sup>th</sup> was a NRAC meeting that Commissioner Plaskett attended as well. McEwen Mining has acquired the acquisition of Timberline resources (Lookout Mountain), they will start exploration and drilling soon.

2. Discuss and consider comments on BLM West-Wide Programmatic Draft EIS for Utility-Scale Solar Energy Development. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve submitting comments on BLM West-Wide Programmatic Draft EIS for Utility-Scale Solar Energy Development and allowing Chairman McKay to sign outside of the meeting. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

3. Discuss and consider response, including possible objection, to US Forest Service Monitor-Toguima Range Vacant Allotment Project Draft Decision Notice. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to echo NRACS response of waiting to comment on the US Forest Service Monitor- Toguima Range Vacant Allotment Project Draft Decision Notice. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

4. Discuss and consider commenting to BLM on Robertson Mine Project Draft EIS. **(For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve of asking BLM for more clarification on the Robertson Mine Project Draft EIS. Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

5. Discuss, approve or deny adopting a proclamation in support of the Nevada Wildfire Awareness Campaign, May 2024, with the theme “Plan, Prepare, Take Action.” **(For Possible Action)**

Duckwater’s Firewise Day was held on Friday, May 17 at the Duckwater gym.

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to approve adopting a proclamation in support of the Nevada Wildfire Awareness Campaign, May 2024, with the theme “Plan, Prepare, Take Action.” Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

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

Eureka County Clerk, Kathy Bowling read the Correspondence; Men’s Health Network letter, Forest



Service News release, The Crescent Valley Town Board agenda, the Association of American Railroads GoRail letter, a letter from someone in Indianapolis (more information after the meeting), and a reminder that Eureka will be hosting the NACO quarterly meeting May 24 at 10 a.m.

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

Chairman McKay reported that he has been working with the Boys and Girls Club for the last 3 years to get an Early Learning Center in Eureka for daycare. They have been approved for a \$3.2 million community center space, and so he is hoping that continues to move forward.

**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)**

Chairman McKay called for public comment in Crescent Valley, seeing none he called in Eureka. Seeing none he moved on 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)**

Items to consider being placed on the next meeting agenda were, final budget cuts and to go through the budget one more time. CSO positions, GoRail contacted about supporting the EPA denying a waiver to allow California to adopt a zero emissions locomotive.

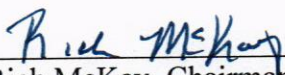
**ADJOURNMENT**

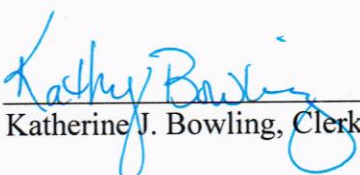
**1. Adjournment of meeting.**

Commissioner Plaskett motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Sharkozy seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried 3-0.

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

*Approved by vote of the Board this 16<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024.*

  
Rich McKay, Chairman

Attest:   
Katherine J. Bowling, Clerk



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...reports on the progress of the ...

...the Commission shall have the authority to ...

**ARTICLE IV**

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**ARTICLE V**

**Section 1**

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