

FEBRUARY 15, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Joe Crim, Chairman. Those present were Shayla Hudson and Larry Rackley, Commissioners; Bryce Shields, District Attorney; Karen Wesner, Administrative Assistant; Lacey Donaldson, Clerk; and Justin Abbott, IT.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Rackley made a motion to approve the February 1, 2023 minutes with the addition of wording clarifying that there is only one open position in the Planning and Building Department. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

Mr. Rackley made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on January 18, 2023 and the Joint City-County meeting on February 7, 2023 as submitted. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hudson and passed.

PUBLIC INPUT: There was no public comment at this time.

REVIEW OF ALL AGENDA ITEMS TO DETERMINE IF ANY DO OR DO NOT IMPOSE A DIRECT AND SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC BURDEN ON A BUSINESS OR DIRECTLY RESTRICT THE FORMATION, OPERATION, OR EXPANSION OF A BUSINESS: Mrs. Hudson made a motion that no agenda items impose a direct and significant economic burden on a business or directly restrict the formation, operation, or expansion of a business. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

UNCLASSIFIED DEPARTMENTS:

ROAD DEPARTMENT – Dan Hill was present.

Mr. Hill reported that all the gravel pit permits have been renewed. Mr. Hill has taken two CEU (Continuing Education Units) classes in Reno and has a few more to go to get his pesticide license. He also reported that he and Mr. Shields met with Elko Mining in regard to them moving Spring Valley Road. It was noted that they will be presenting to the Commission today. Mr. Hill also had a Zoom meeting with Caleb Cage regarding the Landfill inspections, as the Central Nevada Health District will be taking over those inspections. Mr. Hill stated that there was some flooding in Buffalo Valley and the crew fixed washouts. They will go back out there this spring to do some more extensive work. Blades are running throughout the county. They did some patching up at Coeur and will continue when the weather gets warmer.

Approval to go to bid for Mag Chloride: Mr. Rackley made a motion to approve the Road Department going out to bid for Mag Chloride. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

LANDFILL – Dan Hill was present.

Mr. Hill stated that the Landfill was robbed over the weekend. Nothing was taken, but there was some vandalism. They cleaned up the Grass Valley transfer site. Mr. Hill also reported that he will be putting new tires on the loader. He will also be putting the scrap metal out to bid. Mr. Hill also stated that Mr. McDaniel has a plan to divert some cardboard back to the Recycling Center. He is going to rearrange some things and place the smaller dump truck to throw cardboard in, so it can easily be driven down to the Recycling Center.

RECYCLING – Mr. Crim stated that they are baling when necessary and getting it open when they can.

APPROVAL TO HAVE AN APPRAISAL OF WATER RIGHTS OWNED BY PERSHING COUNTY (APN #010-555-01) AND PERSHING COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (010-493-05) WITHIN THE LOVELOCK VALLEY 073 BASIN: Mr. Shields stated that he was advised that the County and School District own these water rights. He thought it would be a good idea to have them appraised so we know their value.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve having an appraisal of the water rights owned by Pershing County on APN #010-555-01, and the Pershing County School District on APN #010-493-05, within the Lovelock Valley 073 Basin. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

UNCLASSIFIED DEPARTMENTS, CONT.D:

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS – John Handka was present.

Mr. Handka reported that since the last meeting they had the Lover’s Aloft event at McDougal Field, which went well. He also reported that they have been doing some weeding and burning at the Airport and taking care of the cemeteries.

Approval of proposal for HVAC units from Oasis Air Conditioning & Heating for the following buildings: 1) Lovelock Firehouse at the Museum, \$15,660.00; 2) Marzen House Museum, \$11,569.00: The Board would feel more comfortable if Mr. Handka obtained a couple more quotes. This item will be placed back on a future agenda.

Proposal from McFadden Electric LLC for electrical/generators for the following buildings: 1) Senior Center, Option #1 \$52,200.00, Option #2 \$67,900.00; 2) Community Center, \$155,000.00: It was noted that this is the only quote Mr. Handka was able to obtain. BSL did not want to participate. Mr. Rackley stated that multiple bids are needed. Mr. Handka was instructed to send out a request for quotes to numerous vendors.

Replacement of storage shed located in the Courthouse Park, \$4,355.00: It was noted that the amount was a typo and was only for the down payment. The total cost is \$8,711.00. Mr. Handka does have the funding available in his budget.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the purchase of a replacement storage shed for the Courthouse Park in the amount of \$8,711.00, which will come out of Mr. Handka’s budget. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

Approval to change propane service to Hunt & Sons, Inc. to service all County owned buildings in the Grass Valley, Imlay, and Rye Patch areas: It was noted that we have already changed the service at the Grass Valley Community Center to Hunt & Sons.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve changing the propane service to Hunt & Sons, Inc. to service all County owned buildings in the Grass Valley, Imlay, and Rye Patch areas. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

Discussion regarding what level of access the IT Department should have with the security camera system: Mr. Crim stated that his understanding was that this would allow someone else to have access if needed. Mrs. Hudson stated that we have a contract with FCC to maintain the cameras. She also stated that this all started because there was an accusation that Mr. Handka was continually watching the cameras, and this was a “knee jerk” reaction. Mr. Crim stated that the intent was never to take access away from Mr. Handka. Mr. Abbott stated that user access and assigning users was a concern. If FCC is the only one who has control over that it could create a security issue. Mrs. Burrows expressed the same concerns over Zoom. Mr. Rackley asked Mr. Shields if a confidentiality agreement with FCC was needed. Mr. Shields will look into it. Mrs. Hudson also asked what was going on with the Community Center cameras, which have been out for months. FCC has ordered new equipment and it should be taken care of this week.

Mr. Handka also stated that all the issues at the Grass Valley Community Center have been resolved, including their well issue.

PERSHING COUNTY FIRE/AMBULANCE –

AMBULANCE REPORT: Marti Nolan was present via Zoom.

Ms. Nolan stated that they've had 20 calls. She has three Emergency Medical Responders working on their paperwork for the State. They have two more classes to take and then they can be permitted. Ms. Nolan also reported that she received an email from Mr. Burke stating that CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) is conducting a billing audit on Pershing County. Ms. Nolan hasn't received any information and has reached out to our ambulance billing company, Sharp. She also stated that she is working with Sharp to start sending people to collections for non-payment. Ms. Nolan also asked Mrs. Donaldson about the expiration dates for our Medicare and Medicaid contracts, so we don't let them lapse. Mrs. Donaldson did not have that information.

Approval to purchase CCLP150 ambulance, not to exceed \$350,000.00: Chief Rodney Wilcox was present.

Chief Wilcox stated that they have \$190,000 in the Ambulance budget to go toward a new ambulance. Mr. Rackley stated that they also have \$250,000 in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds designated for an ambulance. Chief Wilcox stated that there are two ways we can go about this. If he goes out to bid, it will take anywhere from 14 months to 2 years before it would be delivered. Chief Wilcox stated that he also reached out to the manufacturers and their dealers, and our other option is to obtain one that is already being built, but not spoken for. Mr. Shields stated that Chief Wilcox needs to solicit quotes and then we can put this back on the agenda.

LOVELOCK FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Wilcox was present.

Chief Wilcox reported that they currently have 21 members. There have been 11 fire calls since January 1st. They currently have four Firefighter I/II's and seven exterior fire state certified members. All fit tests and physicals are up to date. They are still working on Firefighter I training.

GRASS VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Sean Burke was present.

Chief Burke reported that they currently have 14 of 18 members. Their budget is looking good. They have had a higher than normal number of calls. This past Sunday Chief Burke taught a community youth CPR/First Aid class in Grass Valley. On February 28th he will be going to Carson to meet with the State Fire Marshall's office. On March 5th POOL/PACT representatives are coming out to do a fitness coaching event for the firefighters. Chief Burke is still working on the final details for the SERC HMEP (State Emergency Response Commission Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness) grant, but the propane training has been scheduled for July 29th.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH SEAN BURKE FOR SERVICES BY AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR TO PERFORM GRANT WRITING FOR ALL PERSHING COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS; SET MONTHLY COMPENSATION: Mr. Burke spoke about working on a grant for Imlay. He noted that all the grants for fire departments have a ton of strings attached to them. To be successful he needs cooperation with the departments receiving the money.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the contract with Sean Burke to perform grant writing for all Pershing County Volunteer Fire Departments, with a monthly compensation of \$500.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS MANAGER/LEPC – Sean Burke was present.

Mr. Burke mentioned that the G402 class had to be postponed as the trainer had a conflict. She would like the Board to propose a date to reschedule. Mr. Burke will get back to her and aim for April 3rd. Mr. Burke also reported that he will be meeting with the State Department of Emergency Management and the Humboldt County Emergency Manager in Fallon on February 24th. The State Emergency Management Director would also like to come to a commissioner meeting. The Board did not have an objection. Mr. Burke also thanked Mrs. Donaldson for getting the health trailer registered and licensed. He will be moving it today and will also be reviewing the inventory of the MCI trailer. Mr. Burke stated that the Wildfire Defense Grant is still pending Forest Service approval and he will be meeting with them on February 17th. On February 21st he will be finishing up the installation of the

EOC (Emergency Operations Center). The State Emergency Managers office will be coming on April 5th to audit all our EMP (Emergency Management Planning) grants. He is still working on the EOP (Emergency Operations Plan) base plan, and our Opioid Response Plan also needs to be updated. Mr. Burke stated that he would like to work with the new Health District on the Opioid plan.

Approval of higher hotel room rate for EM Conference in Reno, NV: It was noted that the Conference is March 20-22, 2023.

Mr. Rackley made a motion to approve the higher hotel room rate for Mr. Burke to attend the EM Conference in Reno March 20-22, 2023. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hudson and passed.

RYE PATCH FIRE – Mrs. Hudson reported that since January, they’ve responded to 7 emergency calls, 6 of those were medical and 1 was fire. They currently have 7 members. They’ve participated in three trainings. They are replacing the flooring in the firehouse as it is a trip hazard.

SAFETY / CEMETERY – Cheryl Haas was present via Zoom.

Ms. Haas reported that she is still working with POOL/PACT on policies and procedures. The Safety Manual needs to be completely redone, but POOL/PACT will help. The next Safety meeting will be on March 14th. Ms. Has reported that almost 100% of employees have completed their safety training for FY2023. The training will be updated with new requirements and will start again in July.

The Cemetery Board met on February 7th and discussed weed control. It was suggested to reach out to Dan Hill about using his spray truck and putting down pre-emergent. Mr. Hill is happy to help.

IT DEPARTMENT – Justin Abbott was present.

Mr. Abbott reported that they have started monthly meetings with their Commission Liaison, Mr. Rackley and discussed several things. Mr. Abbott reported that on the fiber project, they hit a milestone. The outside build is done and connections between facilities are working, so now they can start the internal build. He is still working with AT&T on fixing the billing issues. They are continuing the work on ports for the phone lines. Mr. Abbott has started the process for porting over the fax machines to e-fax. Mrs. Wesner’s is the first to go and should be done this afternoon. In regard to our Star2Star phones, they are working on fixing issues with call quality and billing issues. Mr. Crim asked how much the Star2Star contract costs. Mr. Abbott stated that once everything is worked out, (fiber, billing, etc.) it will save us money.

ELECTED DEPARTMENTS:

LACEY DONALDSON, CLERK-TREASURER – Mrs. Donaldson did not have anything to report.

Approval of corrections/changes to the Tax Roll: There were no corrections presented.

Approval of letter to the Department of Taxation requesting a waiver for the Supplemental City-County Relief Tax Guaranteed Status: Mrs. Donaldson explained that this is an annual filing that the County submits in order to keep our “guaranteed status” per NRS 377.057.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve sending a letter to the Department of Taxation requesting a waiver for the Supplemental City-County Relief Tax Guaranteed Status. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

RENE CHILDS, RECORDER-AUDITOR – *Discussion about copier needs in the Admin Building and Courthouse as the current lease has expired and request for direction on how to proceed:* Mrs. Childs spoke about current lease. Mrs. Childs also received lease information from OPI. It was noted that the Recorder-Auditor’s office, the Clerk-Treasurer’s office, the Assessor’s office, and the Planning office have maintenance agreements with Sierra Office for their office printers as well.

Mr. Rackley made a motion to enter into a lease agreement with OPI for the copier needs in the Admin Building and the Courthouse as presented. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hudson and passed.

LAUREEN BASSO-CERINI, ASSESSOR – *Request for approval of contract and services of Dave Dawley to perform appraisal services as an Independent Contractor in the amount of \$50.00 per hour, plus travel and expenses:* Mr. Crim asked if Ms. Basso-Cerini had an idea of how many hours

this would take. Ms. Basso-Cerini stated that she does not. It was noted that as Ms. Basso-Cerini is down the appraiser position, her budget will cover this expense.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the contract and services of Dave Dawley to perform appraisal services as an Independent Contractor for the Assessor's office in the amount of \$50.00 per hour, plus travel and expenses. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim. Mr. Rackley abstained as he personally knows Mr. Dawley. Motion carried.

JERRY ALLEN, SHERIFF – Salary Resolution: K. Grasmick and Z. Newman – Sheriff Allen stated that both deputies graduated from POST (Peace Officers Standards Training) and Deputy Gasmick was the top graduate.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the Salary Resolution for Kevin Grasmick, moving him from a Range 11, Step 1 to a Range 13, Step 1, and the Salary Resolution for Zachary Newman, moving him from a Range 11, Step 2 to a Range 13, Step 1, both effective January 27, 2023. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

GRASS VALLEY ADVISORY BOARD: Linda Workman was present via Zoom.

Ms. Workman thanked Mr. Handka for getting all of their issues resolved. Hunt & Sons have hooked up the installation for the new propane service and they are waiting for the previous vendor to pick up their tank. Ira and Alexis Hansen will be attending the next Grass Valley meeting. Commissioner Crim will be at the next meeting as well.

DERBY FIELD AIRPORT: Mr. Rackley stated that he and Robert McDougal attended a Zoom meeting yesterday. One of the items discussed was the CARES grants we received for the Airport. Three separate grants were received. The first grant has been expended and closed out. We submitted reimbursement requests for the second grant, and it was rejected. The expenses submitted were for the remainder of the security cameras and labor for tearing down an old building. Armstrong suggested better tracking Buildings and Grounds' labor and charge the grant for those expenses.

PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS: YEARS OF SERVICE RECONGNITION FOR VONNI HEMP, 35 YEARS, RECORDER-AUDITOR'S OFFICE – Mrs. Hemp was acknowledged and given a certificate and plaque for her 35 years of service.

LIST OF PROPOSED PROJECTS, PRIORITIZING AND CHANGING/AMENDING THE PROJECTS FOR ALLOCATION OF THE COVID-19 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING FOR PERSHING COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,306,252.00: It was noted that we received another invoice from Farr West. No other updates were given.

APPROVAL TO CONTRACT WITH HODGES WATER RESOURCES, LLC TO ASSIST WITH WATER ISSUES WITHIN PERSHING COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000.00 PER YEAR: Mrs. Hudson requested this item due to the lack of water in the valley. She stated that Mr. Hodges is a great resource for the County. Mr. Rackley agreed that this was a good idea, but asked where the money would come from. Mrs. Childs stated that there is a line item in the General Fund that has \$3,000 budgeted for the Water Resource Plan, which has not been spent.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the contract with Hodges Water Resources, LLC to assist with water issues within Pershing County in the amount of \$1,000.00 per year. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES: INVOICE FOR NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS CENTER ASSESSMENT, \$40,446.00 – Mr. Rackley made a motion to not process or pay the invoice

for the National Public Lands Center Assessment in the amount of \$40,446.00. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hudson and passed.

APPROVAL TO CONTRACT WITH AN INDEPENDENT HR INVESTIGATOR THROUGH POOL/PACT RESOURCES TO INVESTIGATE A HOSTILE WORK ENVIRONMENT ALLEGATION:

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the contract with an independent HR investigator through POOL/PACT Resources to investigate a hostile work environment allegation. Mr. Rackley asked why we would approve this expense. Mr. Shields stated that the Board needs to have a litigation meeting before moving forward.

After the litigation meeting the Board readdressed this item.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the contract with an independent HR investigator through POOL/PACT Resources to investigate a hostile work environment allegation, with our HR Rep selecting the investigator from the list, with a cap of \$150 per hour. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

Undersheriff Blondheim informed the Board that the Sheriff's office is able to perform this type of investigation as well if needed.

The meeting recessed at 10:24 a.m. and reconvened at 10:38 a.m.

ELECTED DEPARTMENTS, CONT.D:

BRYCE SHIELDS, DISTRICT ATTORNEY – *Approval of Settlement Agreement between the State of Nevada and Walmart regarding Opioid litigation:* Mr. Shields explained that the State of Nevada has been involved in opioid litigation at the State and National level for a few years now. There has been a couple different settlements with opioid manufacturers and now the State is suing large pharmacies.

Mr. Rackley made a motion approving Pershing County to opt-in on the Settlement Agreement between the State of Nevada and Walmart regarding Opioid Litigation. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hudson and passed.

REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL: Mr. Shields did not have anything to report.

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/HR REP: Mrs. Wesner reported that everything is running smoothly. She is receiving multiple BDRs day. Mr. Rackley stated that there is a BDR to include Eureka County in the Central Nevada Health District.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS: Mrs. Wesner will put the two items back on for Buildings and Grounds. Mr. Crim also mentioned the purchase of the ambulance.

CORRESPONDENCE: There was no correspondence.

MATTERS OF THE BOARD FOR DISCUSSION, BOARD MEMBER REPORTS, BOARD LIAISON REPORTS: Mr. Rackley already reported that he attended an Airport Advisory Board meeting. Mr. Crim attended the Cemetery Board meeting, and the weed issue was discussed. Mrs. Hudson attended the water conference and the Hospital Board meeting. She has a Humboldt River Water Basin Authority meeting on Friday. Mrs. Hudson also stated that she attended a meeting with the Navy regarding their expansion and was informed that they will be moving the pole line road.

Mr. Crim recessed the meeting at 10:48 a.m. and it reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

UNR MEDICAL RURAL OUTREACH CLINIC, REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO USE CHN (COUNTY HEALTH NURSE) FACILITY IN THE ANNEX BUILDING, ON FEBRUARY 25, 2023: Zoee Castro, 2nd year med student, spoke via Zoom.

Mrs. Hudson asked if they would continue bringing the Rural Outreach Clinic to Lovelock after we have our own health district. Ms. Castro stated yes, they have no plans to leave Lovelock.

Ms. Haas stated that someone would need to open and close the building. Ms. Castro stated that she has spoken with Shannon Ernst, Churchill County Social Services Director, and Trevor Rackley, CHN Admin, will open and close the building for them.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the UNR Medical Rural Outreach Clinic to use the CHN Facility in the Annex Building on February 25, 2023. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

The meeting recessed at 11:05 a.m. and reconvened at 11:15 a.m.

ERIC DOUGHERTY, SUNSTONE ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS: SPRING VALLEY MINE PLAN OF OPERATIONS PRESENTATION – Joseph Martini, President of Sunstone, was also present.

Mr. Dougherty gave a presentation on their project located in the historic Spring Valley Mining District, approximately 12 miles south of Unionville and 20 miles northeast of Lovelock. Modern exploration at Spring Valley began in 1996 and the current study began in 2018. Mr. Dougherty stated that part of their plan is to remove the existing Buffalo Springs Road and relocate part of Spring Valley Road.

Chuck Sayles spoke about the road conditions on Buffalo Springs Road in the winter.

Mr. Dougherty also spoke about the permitting process, stating that they are looking at probably 18-24 months to get through all of it.

Terri West from Coeur Rochester stated that they will trust the science and will be reviewing documents as they become available.

PUBLIC INPUT: There was no public input at this time.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS: Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the vouchers with the exception of a voucher for Vendor #521, BSL Electric. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

Mr. Rackley made a motion to approve the voucher for Vendor #521, BSL Electric. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim. Mrs. Hudson abstained. Motion carried.

As there was nothing further to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

Approved 03/01/23: _____ /s/
Joe Crim, Chairman

Attest: _____ /s/
Lacey Donaldson, Clerk