

MARCH 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: Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the March 1, 2023 minutes as submitted. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley 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: Mr. Rackley made a motion that no agenda items impose a burden on a business or restrict the formation, operation, or expansion of a business. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hudson and passed.

UNCLASSIFIED DEPARTMENTS:

ROAD DEPARTMENT – Dan Hill was present.

Mr. Hill reported that he has been putting down pre-emergent to prevent weeds. He hauled some sand to Coeur. Mr. Rackley received a complaint about Old Pit Road, and it has been taken care of. Blades are running throughout the county. There is water running across the road at Mud Springs, so they put some markers out and will fix it when they can. Mr. Hill also reported that they had to get more salt. There was also water running across the road up to Coeur, but it wasn't that bad, and Mr. Monroe took care of it.

LANDFILL – Dan Hill was present.

Mr. Hill reported that the transfer stations have been cleaned up again. There are some appliances that were dumped at the Grass Valley transfer station. Mr. Hill also reported that the newest employee has resigned, so the Road crew has been helping Steven out when they can.

RECYCLING – Commissioner Crim reported that things are pretty slow. Mrs. Wesner stated that the advertisement for the employee is out.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS – John Handka was present.

Mr. Handka reported that between the weather, they've been weeding. He is keeping an eye on the trees at the cemeteries.

Approval to re-advertise and engage in the bidding process for the generator projects at the Pershing County Senior Center and Pershing County Community Center: Mr. Handka would like to start fresh, and speaking with Mr. Shields, it was decided to advertise for bids instead of just reaching out to certain contractors.

Mr. Rackley made a motion to approve re-advertising and engaging in the bidding process for the generator projects at the Pershing County Senior Center and the Pershing County Community Center. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim. Mrs. Hudson abstained. Motion carried.

Grass Valley Community Center, Request for security cameras at the community center: Linda Workman, Advisory Board member, reached out to Mr. Handka requesting security cameras. Mr. Handka doesn't currently have any cost estimates.

Mr. Handka also informed the Board that his newest employee had a family emergency and doesn't qualify for FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act), so he will have an item on the next agenda requesting extended emergency leave.

FIRE/AMBULANCE REPORTS –

AMBULANCE: Marti Nolan was present via Zoom.

Ms. Nolan reported that they've had 14 calls since the first of the month. She is working with Mr. Burke on setting up the next EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) course, which will probably be this Fall. Ms. Nolan also stated that she is staying on top of the reporting.

Mrs. Hudson asked if Ms. Nolan had found out the renewal dates for Medicaid and Medicare. Ms. Nolan stated that she doesn't have access, but Patty Bianchi is looking into it. Mrs. Hudson stated that she should reach out to Carol Shank as she had worked on the last Medicaid renewal. She would also like Ms. Nolan to submit a monthly report with call numbers and collection information.

LOVELOCK FIRE: Marti Nolan was present via Zoom.

Ms. Nolan stated that they've had five calls since the last meeting. On Saturday they received a call asking them to respond to an incident in Gerlach. Before responding, Rich Wagner contacted Washoe County and we were not needed. Ms. Nolan stated that training is ongoing.

GRASS VALLEY FIRE: Chief Sean Burke was present.

Chief Burke reported that they currently have 13 members. They had one member retire last week after 29 years of service to Grass Valley. Chief Burke reported that call volume has been higher than normal. They responded to a house fire last week, and unfortunately it burned to the ground. The Red Cross does aid with total loss incidents, so Chief Burke will be setting up a meeting with the local reps in Winnemucca. He has a State contact, but would like a face-to-face with our local representatives. On March 5th, they held a POOL/PACT fitness/wellness event, which was very well attended. Chief Burke met with the State Fire Marshall's training division yesterday. It was a very productive meeting. Chief Burke stated that Pershing County has had a difficult relationship with them in the past and he hopes to rectify that. He will be here tomorrow for his budget hearing. The HMEP (Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness) grant propane training is still scheduled for July 29th. The AFG (Assistance to Firefighters Grant) grant for SCBAs (Self-contained Breathing Apparatus) is still pending at the State level.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS MANAGER/LEPC – Sean Burke was present.

Mr. Burke stated that the major concern in the State currently is flooding. The Governor has declared a state of emergency for several counties, Pershing not included. Mr. Burke has been speaking with Dan Hill of the Road Department and Ryan Collins with Pershing County Water Conservation District about the County's current state. We have had some water on roadways, but nothing significant at this point. The G402 class is scheduled for April 3rd. The next LEPC meeting will be April 5th. There is a meeting Friday with Pershing General Hospital to discuss them providing some clinic services in Grass Valley. Mr. Burke will be attending the Nevada Emergency Preparedness Association meeting next week. On March 24th, he will be working with the Sheriff to install radios and computer equipment in the EOC (Emergency Operations Center). On April 25th, he and Mrs. Childs will be working on an audit from the Department of Emergency Management on one of the grants. Regarding the Imlay SCBA compressor grant, he's received one quote for \$46,300, and is waiting on 2nd quote. He will be applying for a Firehouse Subs grant for this. Mr. Burke also reported that the update/re-write of the Emergency Operations Plan is not going as quickly or smoothly as he would like. He will be meeting with some department heads that were previously assigned tasks, that they probably weren't aware of.

Approval to apply for FY2024 SERC OPTE (State Emergency Response Commission Operations, Planning, Training, Equipment) Grant: Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve applying for the FY2024 SERC OPTE Grant as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

SAFETY / CEMETERY – Cheryl Haas was present via Zoom.

Ms. Haas reported that in regard to the cemeteries, they are preparing for Spring. Dan Hill has sprayed pre-emergent. Mr. Hill was also going to discuss with Mr. Handka spraying inside the cemetery, but there was a concern about staining the headstones. Ms. Haas will be contacting the City to put a dumpster at each cemetery for clean-up. The Clampers will be here this Saturday to pour the

cement for the plaque at the Chinese Cemetery. Ms. Haas stated that they are having some access issues with plots that people purchased years ago. Because other plots have filled in, there isn't full access (by tractor) to these plots anymore.

In regard to Safety, she is still working with POOL/PACT. They are working on updating our Safety Manual. The draft should be available by the end of May. Mr. Hill came up with a policy for vehicle inspections. Vehicles must be inspected each time they are driven. Documentation will be kept in the various departments, with a copy going to Ms. Haas. Safety courses will be assigned sporadically. She just sent out the Cyber Security training.

IT DEPARTMENT – Justin Abbott and Amanda Burrows were present.

Danny Bax, ATP Solutions, Review status of 1) current telecom networks; 2) review ATP's letter dated 3-6-23 to the Board; 3) review status of AT&T project and remaining steps to completion; 4) discuss possible action of sending ATP copies of all telecom bills for a professional billing audit and savings review; 5) review status of AT&T's response to ATP's request for consideration: Mr. Bax spoke about the program and where we are at. Mr. Abbott stated that at this point the onus is on him to start transitioning our connections. He is currently working on that. He estimates a total of 6 weeks for completion, which we are about halfway through.

Mrs. Hudson asked if we had a contract with J4 Systems. Mr. Abbott stated that we engage them for time and materials.

Mr. Shields asked what Mr. Bax's role is in regard to securing a service credit for the County from AT&T. Mr. Bax stated that is still in review. He has requested copies of those bills. He doesn't feel we will obtain credit for 18 months.

Chuck Sayles stated that he is insulted by Mr. Bax inferring that our IT isn't capable of managing the project.

Update: Mr. Abbott stated that they met with OSIT (Office of Science, Innovation & Technology) regarding the State's Broadband project. For the State's portion, to build out all their government buildings, they have selected a vendor. They also spoke a lot about digital equity and affordability. The State will start their public outreach in April.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Heidi Lusby-Angvick was present via Zoom.

Mrs. Lusby-Angvick reported that they met with GOED (Governor's Office of Economic Development) and some legislators during a luncheon on March 7th. There was a PCEDA meeting on Monday. They focused on goal completion and developing goals for next year. Next Thursday there is a Nevada 95-80 joint meeting. There is also a Community Development Block Grant committee meeting next Tuesday.

ELECTED DEPARTMENTS:

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

Approval of corrections/changes to the Tax Roll: Mrs. Donaldson did not have any corrections.

Request for approval to advertise/hire vacant Administrative Clerk I/II position: Mr. Rackley made a motion to approve the request to advertise/hire to fill the vacant Administrative Clerk I/II position in the Clerk-Treasurer's office. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hudson and passed.

RENE CHILDS, RECORDER-AUDITOR – *Proposal from Eide Bailly, CPA's and Business Advisors to perform Pershing County's Annual Audit for 6/30/23:* Mrs. Childs reported that this year's audit fee will be \$99,330, plus \$5,000 for each additional program.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to accept the proposal from Eide Bailly to perform Pershing County's Annual Audit for the year ending June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$99,330 for the audit fee and \$10,000 to perform audits on additional programs. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

LAUREEN BASSO-CERINI, ASSESSOR – *Salary Resolution for K. Caro*: Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the Salary Resolution for Karina Caro, to hire her at an advanced step of Administrative Clerk II, Range 26, Step 2. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

Approval for Dave Dawley, contract Appraiser, as an authorized driver of the Assessor's office vehicle: Mrs. Hudson made a motion to authorize Dave Dawley to drive the Assessor's office county vehicle on the condition that the County Vehicle Policy is signed, and he is added to the Random Testing list. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

JERRY ALLEN, SHERIFF – Sheriff Allen reported that he has 9 inmates in-house and 2 in other facilities. Training is on-going. The new body cameras are being used. Sheriff Allen met with POOL/PACT yesterday regarding a committee they would like to put together for detention facilities. He also met with Senator Hansen and Marnie Benson from Burning Man on Monday. He has a meeting with Senator Neal next Wednesday. Senator Neal is the Chair of the Finance and Economic Development sub-committee.

11TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT: REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF CAPITAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY RATES TO BE INCREASED FROM \$100.00 PER HOUR TO \$150.00-\$200.00 PER HOUR – Judge Shirley was present.

Judge Shirley stated that the attorney is requesting \$150 per hour, plus lodging when she is in town. Mr. Shields informed the Board that the County has a Capital case pending, which requires two attorneys, so she was appointed as co-council with Steve Cochran.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve increasing the Capital Defense Attorney rates from \$100.00 to \$150.00 per hour and include reimbursement for lodging. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

The meeting recessed at 10:10 a.m. for a litigation meeting and reconvened at 10:33 a.m.

GRASS VALLEY ADVISORY BOARD: REQUEST FOR SECURITY CAMERAS AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER; APPROVAL FOR COST OF ZOOM FOR GRASS VALLEY ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS FOR COST OF \$14.99 PER MONTH UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF PERSHING COUNTY – Mr. Abbott has spoken with Mrs. Workman. He didn't have an issue with including them, but wanted it to come before the Board. Mr. Shields stated that the Zoom link needs to be included on every agenda. They will need a laptop and camera. Mr. Shields stated that all the details need to be put together, including who will be responsible for setting it up each meeting, and then bring the plan back before the Commission. Mr. Abbott stated that he has two media kits he has put together for when meetings are held outside of the Round Room, and one could be assigned to Grass Valley. Mr. Crim would still like the details worked out and put back on the next agenda.

DERBY FIELD AIRPORT: Mr. Rackley stated that they are having issues with the gate again, but it was caused by all the dirt blowing. He has cleaned it out and it is working.

WIC GRANT SUB AWARD FOR FY2023: Mr. Shields has reviewed the Sub Award. He did want the Board to be aware of some items. The first item of concern is that the contract states that staffing changes have to be pre-approved by the State.

Andrea Rivers, Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, WIC Program Manager, was present via Zoom. Ms. Rivers offered some clarification, stating that daily staffing would be up to the County, they just need to be aware. The pre-approval comes into play if there is a pay increase, so they can make sure it is covered by the sub-award. Mr. Shields appreciates that, but asked if the language could be changed. Ms. Rivers stated that it is something that she can take back to the Health Commission. Mr. Shields stated that we would rather move forward, so

we can be reimbursed for the expenses the County has already covered. Ms. Rivers stated that any contract changes wouldn't happen until the new award, which would be sometime in August. She will take it back and this will have to go through the process for approval.

Mr. Shields also wanted the Board to be aware of the language regarding office inventory. Mrs. Childs stated that the County only monitors inventory over \$3,000. Mr. Shields stated that there are also some items that need to be discussed with HR regarding current employees who may receive WIC benefits. Ms. Rivers stated that the language in those two instances is standard Federal language, as these are Federal dollars. Mr. Shields stated that he isn't really concerned about these two items, but the Board needs to be aware and develop policies if needed.

This will be put back on the agenda when the State amends the language.

NEVADA DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES: APPROVAL OF GROUNDWATER BASIN ASSESSMENTS FOR THE FOLLOWING BASINS: HUALAPAI FLAT (024) \$649.39; BLACK ROCK DESERT (028) \$95.30; DESERT VALLEY (031) \$4.07; GRASS VALLEY (071) \$14,387.73; IMLAY AREA (072) \$7,352.72; DIXIE VALLEY (128) \$1,382.53; BUENA VISTA (129) \$6,987.55; BUFFALO VALLEY (131) \$1,495.23; LOVELOCK VALLEY (073 & 73A) \$11,158.60; TOTAL ASSESSMENT \$45,513.12 – Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the Groundwater Basin Assessments as presented, for a total of \$45,513.12. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

APPROVAL TO WRITE LETTERS TO REPRESENTATIVES MARK AMODEI, STEVEN HORSFORD, SUSIE LEE, DINA TITUS, AND SENATORS CATHERINE CORTEZ-MASTO AND JACKIE ROSEN REGARDING OPPOSITION TO THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED RULE DEFINING WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES (WOTUS): Mrs. Hudson stated that this wasn't passed by the House, but is currently being reviewed by the Senate. She isn't sure if we should wait and see where this goes or send a letter now. Mr. Shields has looked at the draft letter.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve writing letters to our representatives in regard to opposition to the recently published Rule defining Waters of the United States. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

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: Mr. Rackley stated that there haven't been any changes. Mrs. Childs would like to go over the remaining items as she thinks the funds have been over-appropriated. We currently have \$445,000.00 remaining unspent.

Ms. Basso-Cerini brought Karina Caro, her newest employee, over to meet the Board.

REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL: Mr. Shields spoke about the WIC sub-award again. Mr. Shields does believe a conflict of interest exists with County employees who may receive WIC benefits, as the contract states all employees, not just WIC employees.

REPORT FROM ADMIN: Mrs. Wesner stated that she is up to date on all the BDRs. She has been very busy with HR matters.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS: No additional agenda items were discussed.

CORRESPONDENCE: There was no additional correspondence discussed.

MATTERS OF THE BOARD FOR DISCUSSION, BOARD MEMBER REPORTS, BOARD LIAISON REPORTS: Mrs. Hudson reported that she attended the Hospital Board meeting and the scholarship committee meeting. The State will be providing rurals with funding for paramedic and CNA training. She also attended the PCEDA (Pershing County Economic Development Authority) meeting. Mrs. Hudson also shared that the State Engineer is holding an informational meeting on March 28th regarding the development of strategies to avoid conflict.

Mr. Rackley attended the Central Nevada Health District meeting. He asked Mr. Crim if he'd been asked to do a walk- through of the Community Center on Monday. Mr. Crim has not. Mrs. Hudson stated that she will do it.

Mr. Crim had nothing to report as he was out of town last week.

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

VOUCHERS: Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the vouchers with the exception of a voucher for Vendor #452, Shayla Hudson. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

Mr. Rackley made a motion to approve the voucher for Vendor #452, Shayla Hudson. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim. Mrs. Hudson abstained. Motion carried.

As there was nothing further to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Approved 4/19/23: _____ /s/
Joe Crim, Chairman

Attest: _____ /s/
Lacey Donaldson, Clerk