

## JULY 5, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Joe Crim, Chairman. Those present were Larry Rackley and Shayla Hudson, 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 minutes from the June 7, 2023 regular meeting, the June 14, 2023 workshop, and the June 26, 2023 special meeting as submitted. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hudson and passed.

**PUBLIC INPUT:** Linda Workman spoke via Zoom. Ms. Workman wanted to make sure the Board had received two letters of interest for the Grass Valley Advisory Board. Board appointments will be addressed later in the meeting.

**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. Rackley and passed.

### **UNCLASSIFIED DEPARTMENTS:**

ROAD DEPARTMENT – Dan Hill was present.

Mr. Hill reported that they have finished their Mag Chloride project. The vendor ran out of straight Mag Chloride, so they offered a more expensive product at no additional charge to finish the project. Mr. Hill did receive some complaints, but the roads look really good, and it should hold up better. The crew continues to fix washouts. Mr. Hill has been spraying weeds. They will also be mowing some weeds in Grass Valley.

*Request to advertise/hire vacant Road Maintenance Worker I/II:* Mr. Rackley made a motion to approve advertising and hiring to fill the vacant Road Maintenance Worker I/II position. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hudson and passed.

*Permission for Nevada Iron to use Bombing Range Road:* Mr. Hill stated that he was approached by a gentleman with Nevada Iron. Mrs. Hudson stated that this is the road that the Navy will be relocating for their expansion. The road on the Stillwater side will not be accessible. They need to be aware that at some point, that road will be closed. No motion was made.

*Permission for Avangrid to use Tungsten Road for a solar project:* Mrs. Hudson asked if a Special Use Permit is required for this project. Mr. Shields stated that it depends where the project is located and then it would go before the Planning Commission. Mr. Hill stated that Avangrid needs written permission from the County to use the road to submit to the BLM.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve Avangrid to use Tungsten Road for a solar project. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

Mr. Crim asked if a road maintenance agreement is put in place automatically when a company is using a road. Mr. Hill stated that it is.

LANDFILL – Mr. Hill was present.

*Approval to advertise/hire vacant Landfill Operator position:* Mr. Rackley made a motion to approve advertising and hiring to fill the vacant Landfill Operator position. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hudson and passed.

Mr. Hill stated that the Road Department employees are helping as they can. Gerry Monroe worked out there last week. The Grass Valley transfer site needs to be cleaned up and Imlay's burn pile needs to be burned.

RECYCLING CENTER – Mr. Crim has no updates.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS – John Handka was present.

Mr. Handka stated that they have been busy with maintenance items.

SENIOR CENTER/VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR – There was no one present from the Center. Mrs. Wesner stated that Ms. Larsen is out of town.

LIBRARY – No one was present.

PERSHING CO. FIRE/AMBULANCE –

*AMBULANCE:* Ms. Nolan sent Mrs. Hudson an update. They have started sending accounts to collection. The Ambulance department has been very busy.

*GRASS VALLEY FIRE:* Chief Sean Burke was present.

Chief Burke stated that calls have been steady. They have two new members, for a total of 14. Pershing County has been authorized as a State Training Center. They will have an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) class starting in September. Burn bans throughout the County are either in place or are going into place soon.

COMMUNITY CENTER – No report.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION/4-H PROGRAM – No report.

IT DEPARTMENT – Justin Abbott was present.

Mr. Abbott reported that he is working on turning services back up with AT&T. AT&T is working on the billing and financial statements. The DSA upgrade is going well and is mostly complete. Mr. Abbott also reported that he applied for a Cyber Security Grant. A meeting was held with the Governor's Cyber Security Task Force on Monday. They have not sent out official notification yet, but our award looks almost certain. Mr. Abbott stated that the total amount requested for all the projects submitted is less than the funding available, so everyone should get awarded. Mr. Abbott stated that even if they don't fund everyone, we ranked toward the top.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Heidi Lusby-Angvick was present.

Mrs. Lusby-Angvick stated that she has an Economic Development meeting coming up. In regard to the Brownfields project, they are working on the Winnemucca side of the project.

PUBLIC DEFENDER – Later in the morning Steve Cochran came before the Board. He gave the Board his monthly case load report. His administrative staff has hit her 6 month anniversary and is doing very well and continues to learn. Mr. Cochran informed the Board that he has a half million pages of discovery that needs to be digitized for a capital case. It is looking like they will have to send it out of state to get it done and will share that expense with the DA's office. Mr. Shields stated that they will have an item on the next agenda for approval.

#### **ELECTED DEPARTMENTS:**

LACEY DONALDSON, CLERK-TREASURER – Mrs. Donaldson reported that Ms. Basso-Cerini closed the Tax Roll on Monday. Mrs. Donaldson will be doing Tax Calculation tomorrow and bills will go out between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of July.

RENE CHILDS, RECORDER-AUDITOR – Mrs. Childs reported that they are working on the fiscal year-end processes. Because of this, she does not have the June month-end reports available for the Board at this time.

ASSESSOR’S OFFICE – Jennifer Hill was present.

Mrs. Hill stated that they closed the Tax Roll on Monday. They will be starting the reappraisal cycle for Book 1, which is the City of Lovelock, and also working on the business personal property.

Mrs. Hill also spoke about the special meeting that was held last Thursday to approve corrections to the Tax Roll. Mrs. Hill stated that there were some statements made that she feels need to be addressed and clarified. At the meeting Amanda Burrows stated that she understood the correction to her bill and wasn’t there to dispute it. She also stated that two other taxpayers, Dusti Esenarro and Mike Phillips, complained or questioned their bills and when they did the Assessor’s office showed up and remeasured their homes. Mrs. Hill thanked Mrs. Donaldson for clarifying at the meeting that Ms. Esenarro was actually appealing her Landfill Assessment, which has nothing to do with property values. Mrs. Hill stated that Mr. Phillips’ property was in the reappraisal cycle last year and several measurements were found to be incorrect at that time. Per Statute, the Assessor’s office appraises property every five years. Last year’s cycle included Book 7, which includes the valley and most of the Ag land. These errors were found during that reappraisal process. No one is being singled out for reappraisal. The only time a property is addressed outside the cycle is when a building permit has been issued. Mrs. Hill also explained that prior to the software conversion in 2019, all appraisals were done in person and by hand, which was time consuming and could lead to errors. The new software, combined with Pictometry, is state of the art, captures improvements more effectively, and with very little errors. Mrs. Burrows also mentioned that they had made an appointment with Ms. Basso-Cerini that she did not show up for. Mrs. Hill stated that she is the person that handles business personal property. When the error was found, she asked Ms. Basso-Cerini to join her in calling Mr. Burrows to explain what happened. She also had some paperwork for them, and Mr. Burrows stated that they would come in and pick it up. The day that he came in, Ms. Basso-Cerini had called in sick. Ms. Basso-Cerini and Mrs. Hill have been available to answer any additional questions, but Mrs. Hill thought that the issue was resolved. Mrs. Hill stated that their office is open 8-5 every day and she has never turned anyone away. Mrs. Hill also stated that Mrs. Burrows asked about the procedures when an error is found, and a correction is made. Mrs. Hill stated that the Assessor’s office reaches out to the taxpayer by phone or mail to let them know and then the correction is given to the Treasurer’s office to be placed on an agenda for approval. How the item appears on the agenda isn’t a function of the Assessor’s office. Mrs. Hill also thanked Mrs. Donaldson and Mr. Shields for explaining the correction process and what constitutes a clerical error. Mrs. Hill just hopes that the taxpayers will appreciate transparency and understand that corrections are verified.

**BID OPENING/AWARD FOR THE PERSHING COUNTY WATER TENDER (GRASS VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT):** One bid was received from Midwest Fire. It was opened on Monday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. by Mrs. Wesner and Mrs. Donaldson. The amount of the bid is \$431,157.00. Mrs. Hudson stated that the chassis could be six months out. The vendor did account for a potential price increase in the bid.

Mrs. Childs stated that at the April 19, 2023 meeting she stated this expense would have to be budgeted for in FY24-25. There was a motion made to get specifications, not to award the bid. Mrs. Childs stated this item is not in the FY23-24 budget, and asked how it would be paid for. Mrs. Childs also stated that we cannot afford to use the Option Tax Fund this year. She reminded the Board that the Road Department is also receiving an extra \$100,000 for this fiscal year, on top of the current loan

payments coming from that Fund, and the Enterprise Lease payments. Mrs. Hudson asked about the Rye Patch expansion. The Rye Patch firehouse expansion is listed for \$99,000 for FY22-23 or FY 23-24.

Mr. Rackley stated that the Board did make a motion to go out to bid so they would know what kind of price they were looking at. The money isn't currently available. Mr. Burke understands, but would like the process clarified in the future, so he doesn't spend so much time on something for nothing.

**UNCLASSIFIED DEPARTMENTS, CONT.D:**

CODE ENFORCEMENT – Fran Machado was present.

Mrs. Machado gave the Board her report for July. She has 151 open cases, 36 have been resolved. Mrs. Machado also reported that she spent 30 hours in training to renew her certificate, which is good for three years.

**ELECTED DEPARTMENTS, CONT.D:**

BRYCE SHIELDS, DISTRICT ATTORNEY – Mr. Shields stated that he hired a full-time person for DMV/Child Support. He found out this morning that DMV requires a background check, which takes about 90 days. In regard to the request to move petty cash from the Assessor's office to the DA's office, Mr. Shields was informed that the Assessor's office does not need the \$35.00 as requested, so the entire \$475 would transfer to the DA's office.

*Approval to create a petty cash fund for DMV under the District Attorney's office in the amount of \$475.00 and reduce the Assessor's Petty cash:* Mr. Rackley made a motion to approve creating a petty cash fund for the District Attorney's office for DMV in the amount of \$475.00. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hudson and passed.

*Salary Resolution, B. Allen:* Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the Salary Resolution for Brailen Allen, moving her from a Caseworker I, Range 31, Step 3 to a Caseworker II, Range 32, Step 4. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

*Approval to authorize the District Attorney's office to file a motion to intervene on behalf of Pershing County in Coven vs United States pertaining to the overpopulation of wild horses and burros and the BLM's failure to conduct emergency gatherings in accordance with a Record of Decision mandating the same:* Mr. Shields explained that in 2017 Pershing County sued the Department of the Interior. That suit was settled under terms that the BLM would conduct an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) and issue a Record of decision, which they did. The Record of Decision stated that the wild horses and burros in Pershing are overpopulated, and they would schedule a gather contingent on funding and space in their facilities. There has been no action for six years. Mr. Shields stated that we did file an appeal; however, it was not addressed. The Coven family is in the same position and have now sued the BLM and the Department of Interior in the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve authorizing the District Attorney to file a motion to intervene on behalf of Pershing County in Coven vs United States, pertaining to the overpopulation of wild horses and burros and the BLM's failure to conduct emergency gatherings in accordance with a Record of Decision mandating the same. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

Sam Burton, new District Manager for BLM in Winnemucca, introduced himself. He stated that a gather is planned for East Pershing, dependent on available funding. They have been doing aerial surveys of numbers. This is a highly controversial area, and they are committed to following-through as they are allowed. Mr. Burton also spoke about this year's Burning Man event and the upcoming fire

season, noting that the fire season would normally be in full force by now, but with all the water, it will probably push into August.

**TERMINATION OF LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN PERSHING COUNTY AND GREAT BASIN CO-OP TESTING LAB FOR APN 007-241-62; CREATION OF LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN PERSHING COUNTY AND UPRISE, INC. FOR APN 007-241-62 AND/OR APN 007-241-81 TO UPRISE FIBER TO LEASE ONE OR BOTH PARCELS ON A YEARLY BASIS IN EXCHANGE FOR WAIVING ONE YEAR OF INTERNET/SERVICE CHARGES TO THE COUNTY (APPROXIMATELY \$24,000-\$30,000):** Mr. Shields stated that if the Board decides to terminate the lease they have to provide notice and then they can proceed with the second part of the agenda item (Lease agreement with UpRise).

Mr. Rackley made a motion to terminate the Lease Agreement between Pershing County and Great Basin Co-Op Testing Lab for APN #007-241-62. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hudson and passed.

Mr. Rackley stated that he received an email from Jenn Long from UpRise and this is not what they were interested in. This will be put back on a future agenda if needed.

**DERBY FIELD AIRPORT:** Mr. Shields has the updated the lease agreement with the new tenants. Mr. Shields spoke about another lease we currently have with a rocket engine company. He has spoken to them, and they would like to expand their lease by adding a piece of land to store rocket fuel on.

**APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY LEASE AGREEMENT WITH SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION FOR TOULON PEAK COMMUNICATIONS BUILDING SPACE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,200.00 PER YEAR:** Mr. Rackley stated that he has mentioned this a couple times. Mr. Shields explained that the lease agreement is for a 10 year term with a 3% increase each year. Once this term expires, it can be renewed for an additional 5 years.

Mr. Rackley made a motion to approve the Communications Facility Lease Agreement with Southwest Gas Corporation for Toulon Peak Communications Building space in the amount of \$7,200.00 per year. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hudson and passed.

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS: GRASS VALLEY ADVISORY BOARD –** Three letters were received for three open positions. It was noted that each seat has a specific designation. Ms. Workman's seat is designated Farming & Ranching. The other two open seats are for Subdivision and Commercial & Business. Ms. Workman stated that Mr. Savard owns Logan Winery. She was asked if he has a County Business License. Ms. Workman stated that they have gone through the State licensing, but wasn't sure about the County. She will find out and Mr. Savard's letter will be considered again at the next meeting.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to reappoint Linda Workman to the Grass Valley Advisory Board representing Farming and Ranching, and to appoint Anissa Johnson to represent Subdivisions. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

**RECREATION BOARD –** Letters were received from Doris Bridges, Cody Wilcox, and Wendy Nelsen for two open seats on the Recreation Board. It was noted that one of the seats is an "at-large" seat and the other is for Hotel/Motel/Business Owner.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to appoint Doris Bridges and Cody Wilcox to the Recreation Board. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

**PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS: YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS** – The Board wished to recognize the following individuals for their years of service to Pershing County:

Lauren Basso-Cerini, 20 years  
Steve Cochran, 15 years  
Kathie Brinkerhoff, 15 years  
Mayra Madrigal-Caballero, 5 years

Mr. Cochran was present and was presented with a certificate and pin for his years of service.

**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT UPDATE:** Undersheriff Blondheim stated that they currently have 13 in custody. One dispatcher has submitted their two week notice. Mrs. Hudson asked when the new vehicles will be in service. Undersheriff Blondheim stated that all the radio parts are backordered.

**CHRISTINE JOHNSON, NEVADA STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:** PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION ON THE NEVADA STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES (NSBGN), POLICIES, NEW STATE LAW PERTAINING TO DEROGATORY PLACE NAMES, AND UPDATES ON RECENT FEDERAL ACTIONS AND MANDATES REGARDING THE SAME – Ms. Johnson gave a PowerPoint presentation. She thanked the Board for their cooperation thought the years. It was noted that there was one geographic name in Pershing County that will be renamed.

**PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT / IMLAY WATER/ PERSHING ELECTRICT:** Mrs. Hudson stated that Mr. Evans is out dealing with some issues with Imlay Water. She did report that we were approved for the Revolving Fund Principal Forgiveness Loan last week.

**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:** There was nothing new to report.

**REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL:** Mr. Shields had nothing to report.

**REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATIVE / HR REP:** Mrs. Wesner stated that everything is going fine. She completed the job description for the seasonal maintenance worker position and the Recreation Board has received one applicant.

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:** Mr. Rackley stated that they need to appoint someone to serve as a member of the Nevada Local Justice Reinvestment Council. He would also like to add an agenda item for an update on the LATCF funds. It was asked if the Board needed to hold a workshop to discuss projects for that funding and it was noted that most of it is earmarked for the Imlay Water project.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** There was no additional correspondence.

**BOARD MEMBER REPORTS, BOARD LIAISON REPORTS:** Mrs. Hudson attended the Grass Valley Advisory Board meeting. They have crickets! She didn't hear a lot of complaints this go

round. Cynthia Albright also attended the meeting. There is a meeting with the Navy coming up, but Mrs. Hudson stated that she might need Mr. Rackley to attend in her absence. Mrs. Hudson also has a Central Nevada Water Authority meeting on Friday.

Mr. Rackley didn't have anything to add. The Airport Advisory Board has a meeting scheduled next week.

Mr. Crim didn't have anything to report.

**PUBLIC INPUT:** There was no public comment.

**APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:** Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the vouchers as submitted. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

As there was nothing further to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Approved 8/02/23: \_\_\_\_\_ /s/  
Joe Crim, Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ /s/  
Lacey Donaldson, Clerk