

OCTOBER 4, 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: Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the minutes from September 6, 2023 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: 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 AND LANDFILL – Dan Hill was present.

Mr. Hill reported that they completed some emergency repairs to roads that washed out during the storms. They have been working with Coeur to replace some single culverts with double culverts. Mr. Hill also reported that he will be filling the Road Supervisor position next week.

Mrs. Hudson stated that there are some concerns with the newly paved Grass Valley Road. There is an area where water is running over the road. Mr. Hill stated that he is trying to get the BLM to supply some culverts.

Salary Resolution, M. Hudson: Mrs. Hudson stated that she would be abstaining from all discussion as Mollee is her daughter-in-law.

Mr. Rackley made a motion to approve the Salary Resolution for Mollee Hudson moving her from an Administrative Clerk I, Range 23, Step 6 to an Administrative Clerk II, Range 26, Step 3. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim. Mrs. Hudson abstained. Motion carried.

Road maintenance agreement between Pershing County and Nevada Iron for portions of Pole Line Road and Coal Canyon Road: Mr. Shields stated that Nevada Iron is still reviewing the agreement, so he asked that this item be postponed to a future agenda.

LANDFILL – Dan Hill was present.

Mr. Hill stated that he has been up there a few times. Mr. Delavega has been helping out up there.

RECYCLING CENTER – Mr. Crim didn't have anything to report. Mr. Rackley stated that there is currently an NDEP grant available.

SENIOR CENTER/VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR – Christina Larsen (Steele) was present.

The Homebound numbers are at 42 and they are averaging 35-43 for congregate. They served over 1,400 units in the month of September and plan to keep going up. They are having a breakfast event on October 20th, where they will be decorating Halloween trees for \$5.00. She also stated that she hired a new relief cook. Catholic Charities will be at the center on October 24th for flu shots.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS – John Handka was present.

Mr. Handka reported that they finished taking care of items at Big Meadow Cemetery. They have started the winter closing of all the water systems. A load of fuel is coming next Tuesday for the Airport. Mr. Handka received a phone call from Grass Valley in regard to the a/c unit leaking. He will go up this week to look at it. Mrs. Hudson stated that they also need a tree cut down. Mr. Handka stated

that he was told that they were taking care of the tree. Mr. Rackley asked if he had received a quote for new cabinets. Mr. Handka stated he does have a quote for cabinets, but is having a problem with the counter tops. The generator for the Community Center has arrived. The pad has been built and they will get it installed.

PERSHING COUNTY FIRE/AMBULANCE REPORT –

AMBULANCE: Mrs. Nolan submitted a written report.

FIRE DEPARTMENTS: Mrs. Hudson stated that there is a Chiefs' meeting on October 27th. Mr. Rackley has a letter from Humboldt River Ranch in regard to the Rye Patch firehouse expansion.

COMMUNITY CENTER – Diana Munden was present.

2,698 attendees came through the Community Center for the 2nd quarter. The oven has been checked and is working properly. The Domestic Violence Intervention Soup and Salad is tonight. The Flu Pod is scheduled for October 11th. Ms. Munden stated that she is concerned about a liability issue in the kitchen regarding the center island. She gave the Board a picture of braces for the island that she found on Amazon. Mrs. Hudson stated that they had already discussed this and decided to leave it as is for cleaning purposes. Mr. Crim stated that Buildings and Grounds recommended leaving it as is. Mr. Crim stated that he would work with Mr. Handka on a solution. Ms. Munden stated that she will also be marking areas that need to be repainted. Lastly, Ms. Munden asked how she can encourage better communication regarding work being done or deliveries being made to the Community Center.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION/4-H PROGRAM – Steve Foster, Colby Burke and Reganne Barrick were present.

As Mr. Foster has retired, he reported that Cooperative Extension will be hiring an Educator and an Admin in Churchill County to cover Churchill, Pershing, and Mineral County. Colby's supervisor will be someone out of Reno who is a 4-H Specialist and Reganne will report to the Admin in Fallon. Mr. Crim stated that he did have a discussion with Holly Gatzke in regard to taking Cooperative Extension out of the rurals. He also expressed his concern of hiring an Educator in Fallon, which has been open for 3 years, and having them cover three counties, stating that person would never leave Churchill County. Mrs. Hudson also feels Reganne should be full-time.

Approval to renew Xerox Copier Lease with a new printer, AltaLink C8145H for estimated monthly cost of \$242.00: It was noted that the previous lease was \$290 per month.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve renewing the Xerox Copier Lease for Ag Extension, to include a new printer for an estimated monthly cost of \$242.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

Ms. Burke reported that 4-H is having their annual Barbeque on Saturday, October 21, 2023 and they will also be having an auction. They currently have 23 clubs, up from 4 when Ms. Burke started.

IT DEPARTMENT – Justin Abbott was present.

Mr. Abbott reported that they finished the cutovers to AT&T, including the State connections. AT&T is moving forward with issuing credits. We received one credit for the early termination fees in the amount of \$46,377.00, but are still waiting on some service credits. Mr. Abbott has also been working on the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) getting the phone/fax set up and doing any trouble shooting necessary. He received a notification from the Department of Emergency Management regarding the Cyber Security Grant. They are waiting on the Federal Government to release the funds.

Peggy Higby asked when we will get all the credits owed by AT&T. Mr. Abbott explained that the \$46,000 credit isn't for money the County expended, it is for a bill that we never paid as they were not mailing it to the correct address.

Discussion and decision on network plan for 2024 Fiber RFP specifications: Mr. Abbott prepared some diagrams of where we are now and where we could get to. Mrs. Hudson feels the whole point of the project was to get fiber to all the County facilities, including the Road Department, etc. She asked Mr. Abbott to explain dark fiber. She also asked what the most cost effective way would be. Mr. Abbott stated that a better question would be, how does the county want to spend the money – up-front

or spread-out over time. Mr. Crim stated that they want a plan that will work best for the county, not necessarily all the bells and whistles. Mrs. Hudson added that they would also like to be able to use the equipment that we already have. Mr. Abbott stated that regardless of which direction is taken, we will have to purchase some equipment. Mrs. Burrows spoke about the different service needs at the Road Department and other outlying facilities.

Mrs. Burrows asked Mr. Abbott if he had put a proposal together for the County to build out their own fiber. Mr. Abbott stated that he did. He also stated that building it ourselves would be a good option if it was just the four central buildings.

Review and approve renewal quote and license change: This item was taken care of at the last meeting.

PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS: ELIZABETH BLONDHEIM, 20 YEARS; DAROL GILLILAND, JR., 15 YEARS; AND STEVE FOSTER, RETIREMENT – Mrs. Blondheim and Mr. Gilliland were presented with certificates and pins for their years of service to Pershing County. Mr. Foster was presented with a retirement gift for his 14 years of service.

UNCLASSIFIED DEPARTMENTS, CONT.D:

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

Mrs. Lusby-Angvick reported that the Nevada 95/80 Futures Program is October 25th in Winnemucca. Mrs. Lusby-Angvick also reported that she and Michelle Hammond Allen participated in the USDA's Federal Forum in Pahrump on September 21st. She will also be attending the UNR Lithium Symposium on October 13th. She will have an item on the next agenda regarding an FM radio station.

PUBLIC DEFENDER – Steve Cochran was present.

The Board was given the office's monthly report. Mr. Cochran reported that for September they closed more cases than were opened. Mr. Cochran attended the National Counsel of Juvenile Family Court Judge's Conference last week.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – Fran Machado was present.

Mrs. Machado gave the Board an update on her current case load. She currently has 123 open cases.

LOVELOCK FIRE – Chief Rodney Wilcox was present.

Chief Wilcox reported they currently have 19 members, consisting of 4 firefighter 1s and 7 State Certified Exterior firefighters. All have been fit tested and have up to date physicals. He also gave the Board an overview of the vehicles the department has, which are all running and in service. Chief Wilcox stated that he will move forward ordering the SCBAs (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) the Board authorized LATCF funds for. In the last 30 days they have responded to 41 medical calls, 3 vehicle accidents, 4 fires, 1 rescue truck call, and one transfer to Derby Field.

The City truck is still in Las Vegas being serviced. The bill will be about \$25,000. The "sister" truck that belongs to the County will need to be serviced as well. Mrs. Hudson stated that the cost needs to be included in the budget. Mr. Crim asked why they sent the City's truck to Vegas when there is a company nearby that does the same thing. Chief Wilcox stated that they have used the company in Vegas before and they have provided good service. Chief Wilcox also reported that the crew is teaching fire prevention at the Elementary School today. They are also working on planning for the 100 year celebration next year.

PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT/IMLAY WATER SYSTEM/PERSHING ELECTRIC: James Evans was present.

Mr. Evans gave the Board his end of month reports. He took the water samples to Reno on Monday.

PRESENTATION AND EXPLANATION FOR IMLAY WATER SYSTEM FUNDING CONTRACT BY REPRESENTATIVE FROM NDEP – Jason Cooper, Program Manager for the State Revolving Funds Program; and Benjamin Miller, Management Analyst, were present.

Mr. Cooper gave an overview of the State Revolving Funds Program. They receive Federal grants funds, which is matched with their own money and then loaned back out. Congress has allowed them to provide some funding in the form of principal forgiveness loans. A principal forgiveness loan is basically a grant, you don't have to pay it back and there is no interest. The loan does have conditions, which include an Asset Management Plan, a review of the utility rates to make sure they are high enough to sustain the system, and a set aside reserve account for emergencies.

Mrs. Hudson asked how we move forward with increasing the rates. RCAC (Rural Community Assistance Corp) can help with a rate study. Mr. Shields stated that we will need to hold rate hearings. Mr. Evans stated that he is already working with RCAC on a rate study and an income survey.

APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE IMLAY WATER SYSTEM PROJECT PHASE 2 – Mrs. Hudson made a motion to adopt Resolution #23-1013, Signatory Authorization Resolution for the Pershing County Board of Commissioners to apply to DWSRF (Drinking Water State Revolving Fund) for Loan Funding for the Imlay Public Water System 2023 (DW00226) Project. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF FUNDING CONTRACT #DW2319 WITH NDEP (NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,504,800.00 – Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the funding contract #DW2319 with NDEP in the amount of \$1,504,800.00 as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

The regular meeting was recessed at 10:22 a.m. and the Liquor Board meeting was called to order by Chairman Evans.

LIQUOR BOARD: CHEERS TAPHOUSE, REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF SPECIAL EVENT LIQUOR LICENSE FOR CHILI COOKOFF AT THE GRASS VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER ON OCTOBER 7, 2023 – All of the paperwork is in order.

Mr. Rackley made a motion to approve the Special Event Liquor License for Cheers Taphouse for the Chili Cookoff at the Grass Valley Community Center on October 7, 2023. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

As there was nothing further to come before the Liquor Board, Mr. Evans adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

The regular meeting was reconvened at 10:24 a.m.

ELECTED DEPARTMENTS:

LACEY DONALDSON, CLERK-TREASURER – Mrs. Donaldson reported that during the last meeting she was in Ely attending the Annual County Fiscal Officers' Association Conference, which was great as always. Her new employee is doing a great job and catching on quickly. We are thankful to have her, and she seems to like the position. Mrs. Donaldson also reported that she has been busy daily with election matters, including the statewide voter registration system implementation and the Presidential Preference Primary. Filing opened Monday for the Presidential Preference Primary and currently there will be a Democratic contest.

Approval to increase credit card limit for Lacey Donaldson from \$1,000.00 to \$2,000.00: Mrs. Donaldson stated that she had an issue with the rooms at the conference and would like the limit increased.

Mr. Rackley made a motion to increase the credit card limit for Lacey Donaldson from \$1,000.00 to \$2,000.00. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hudson and passed.

Approval of renewal lease with Pitney Bowes for postage meter in the Administration Building, quarterly rate of \$441.99: Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the renewal lease with Pitney Bowes for the postage meter in the Administration Building for a quarterly fee of \$441.99. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

It was noted that the previous rate was \$445.00 per quarter.

Update on matters relating to the upcoming vacancy of the Recorder-Auditor position: Mrs. Donaldson stated that she has received two resumes. The posting closes Wednesday, October 25th.

RENE CHILDS, RECORDER-AUDITOR – Mrs. Childs gave the Board her monthly reports. She explained that at this point in the year, budgets should be at approximately 75%. There are a few departments that are already over that.

Eide Bailley's AU260 report required communication to the County Commission: Mrs. Childs explained that this letter is just informational, but has to be acknowledged on an agenda.

Mrs. Childs also stated that she will not be at the next meeting.

LAUREEN BASSO-CERINI, ASSESSOR – Mrs. Hudson read a written report. They have had no interest for the Appraiser position. Mrs. Hill and Mrs. Caro attended an ethics training yesterday sponsored by the Assessor's Association. Ms. Basso-Cerini asked if Mrs. Donaldson had responded to the Division of Water Rights public comment period. Mrs. Donaldson stated that she did not as she didn't have any comments. The proposed change doesn't affect the Treasurer's office. Ms. Basso-Cerini also reported that there will be two corrections submitted for the next meeting.

BRYCE SHIELDS, DISTRICT ATTORNEY – *Renewal of lease agreement with Valley Tech Systems for space at Derby Field in the amount of \$6,000.00 annually for a term of three years:* Mr. Shields gave the Board an overview of the changes to the lease.

Mr. Rackley made a motion to approve the lease agreement with Valley Tech Systems for space at Derby Field in the amount of \$6,000.00 annually for a term of three years. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hudson and passed.

DERBY FIELD AIRPORT: APPROVAL OF COST ESTIMATES FOR RENOVATION TO THE CARETAKER HOME – CODY'S CUSTOM COATING, PAINTING \$5,057.67; FLOORING ESTIMATE; CABINET ESTIMATE; APPLIANCE ESTIMATE – Mr. Rackley stated that he has not received an update from Mr. Wilcox (Cody's Custom Coating). He did meet with a different contractor from Fallon yesterday and they will submit a bid. He has a flooring estimate in the amount of \$3,505.12 from Carpet King in Fernley. It was noted that there is \$35,000 in the repair and maintenance budget for the entire Airport. We have already expended \$3,085 for the door and \$425 for pellet stove repairs. Mr. Handka also got a bid for the furnace to be serviced. Oasis provided a quote to replace the entire unit. Mr. Rackley has a different vendor coming to give a quote to just service the current unit. In regard to the appliances, the stovetop has been cleaned, but he couldn't get it to light. He hasn't looked at the oven. The carpet replacement was discussed. Mrs. Hudson asked if a different option, like vinyl would be better. Mr. Rackley stated that he had a quote for that as well and it was double the price. Penny Higby, community member, asked why we only had one quote for the carpet.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the quote from Carpet King to replace the carpet in the caretaker home in the amount of \$3,505.12. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

CEMETERY BOARD: REQUEST TO MOVE THE NORTH FENCE LINE AT BIG MEADOW CEMETERY, DISCUSSION ON THE ESTIMATED OF COST AND FUNDING – Cheryl Haas was present via Zoom. She is still waiting on cost estimates.

PERSHING COUNTY HOSPITAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Letters were received from Rodney Wilcox and Sondra Sayles.

Mrs. Hudson asked each candidate what makes them the best candidate.

Mr. Wilcox stated that his background in EMS and Fire make him the best candidate. He has served previously on the Lovelock Meadows Water District Board. He also feels it would be a good blend being on the fire department and serving on the Hospital Board.

Mr. Rackley asked Mr. Wilcox if he saw a conflict with his wife being a contract employee for the Hospital. He does not. Other board members have family that works at the Hospital.

Mrs. Donaldson asked if either of the candidates planned to file for this office in March as this will go on the 2024 ballot. Mr. Wilcox stated that he would have to see how it goes.

Sondra Sayles stated that her interest in healthcare started with her Grandma. She was CNA and attended nursing school before joining the military. Mrs. Sayles stated that she is up for running for the position next year.

The Board briefly discussed the two candidates. Mr. Rackley noted that only one candidate said for sure that they would run for election.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to appoint Sondra Sayles to the Hospital Board. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

LIST OF PROPOSED PROJECTS, PRIORITIZING AND CHANGING/AMENDING THE PROJECTS FOR ALLOCATION FO THE COVID-19 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING FOR PERSHING COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,306,252.00: There are no changes to the ARPA funding; however, Mrs. Childs stated that there is a voucher in the run in the amount of \$70,000 for the generator.

LIST OF PROPOSED PROJECTS, PRIORITIZING AND CHANGING/AMENDING THE PROJECTS FOR ALLOCATION OF THE LOCAL ASSISTANCE AND TRIBAL CONSISTENCY FUND (LATCF) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,022,300.00: It was noted that the actual amount is \$4,044,600.00, two payments of \$2,022,300.00. Nothing has been spent to date, just committed. Mrs. Hudson suggested paying off the equipment loans and starting a litigation fund. Mr. Rackley stated that at the last meeting they agreed to have a workshop. A workshop to propose projects for the allocation of the LATCF funds will be held on October 23, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

PUBLIC HEARING: APPLICATION BY DARRELL SWEENEY AND ADELAIDA RIO SWEENEY, APPLICATION #92680, WHICH PROPOSES TO CHANGE THE POINT OF DIVERSION AND MANNER OF USE FROM HUMBOLDT COUNTY TO PERSHING COUNTY AND IS WITHIN THE GRASS VALLEY BASIN (071) – It was noted that the application is for four (4) acre feet annually.

Mr. Shields explained that the County usually objects if the application is to move water out of the basin, this does not do that.

Mr. Rackley made a motion to not oppose the application by Darrell and Adelaida Sweeney. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hudson and passed.

The meeting recessed at 11:09 a.m. for a Litigation meeting and reconvened at 11:19 a.m.

REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL: Mr. Shields stated that he had to step out during IT's update regarding Uprise. Mr. Abbott explained the different options Uprise has given. Mr. Shields stated that we need to make sure that our Letter of Intent with Uprise is taken into consideration when we do the RFP.

Mr. Crim would like to see Mr. Abbott and Mrs. Burrows come up with the best plan for the County at a reasonable cost. The Board would like the RFP to include cost estimates for the County to do our own fiber for the four central buildings.

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/HR REP: Mrs. Wesner reported everything is going fine. The Team Building training that was scheduled for October 10th has been cancelled.

APPROVAL OF YEARLY SALARY/MERIT INCREASE FOR WIC UNCLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES MELISSA SLOAN, JUANITA MONTES, NOEMI DIAZ, AND SONIA PEREZ EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2023 – This item will be placed back on the next agenda.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS: No additional items were discussed.

CORRESPONDENCE: There was no additional correspondence reviewed.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS; BOARD LIAISON REPORTS: Mr. Rackley stated that he attended a TV Board meeting. The Central Nevada Health District will be putting on a Flu Pod at the Community Center on October 11th. CNHD also appointed a new administrator, Daren Winkleman. Mr. Rackley also reported that he will be a judge at the Grass Valley Chili Cookoff.

Mrs. Hudson was in Carson at the State Engineers office for the Humboldt River Working group. Presentations have been wrapped up. Staff will compile all information received. Mrs. Hudson isn't sure how they will come up with a viable plan when pumpers are so against surface water users. She also attended the Grass Valley Advisory Board meeting on Monday, 9/25. That Wednesday she attended the Planning update given by Cynthia Albright in Imlay. She also attended the Hospital Foundation meeting. They have an informational flyer for a cruise, which would benefit the foundation. Mrs. Hudson is still waiting for the date of the next IEC meeting.

Mr. Crim stated that he and Mr. Rackley attended NACO last week and it was a pretty good conference. He noted that other counties have the same issues we have. There is a lands issue coming up that may affect all counties.

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

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS: Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the vouchers as submitted, with the exception of vouchers for Vendor #452, Shayla Hudson; #521, BSL Electric; and #556, Larry Rackley. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

Mr. Rackley made a motion to approve the vouchers for Vendor #452, Shayla Hudson, and Vendor #521, BSL Electric. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim. Mrs. Hudson abstained. Motion carried.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the voucher for Vendor #556, Larry Rackley. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim. Mr. Rackley abstained. Motion carried.

As there was nothing further to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Approved 11/01/23: _____ /s/
Joe Crim, Chairman

Attest: _____ /s/
Lacey Donaldson, Clerk