

**NOVEMBER 1, 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; Barrie Medeiros, Deputy Clerk; and Justin Abbott, IT.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Rackley made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 4, 2023, meeting as submitted. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hudson and passed.

**PUBLIC INPUT:** There was no public input 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 burden on a business. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

**UNCLASSIFIED DEPARTMENTS:**

**ROAD DEPARTMENT** – Mr. Hill was present.

*Approval to contract with Redi Services, LC to clean six (6) culverts in the amount of \$47,980.00 to be paid from RTC funds:* Mr. Hill reported that they launched the contract yesterday. He stated that they looked at two culverts and they both need to be replaced, due to being full of holes. He said that the ones that need to be replaced will be done this fall. The amount of the contract will be reduced because of the replacement culverts.

Mr. Rackley made a motion to approve the contract with Redi Services, LC as presented. Mrs. Hudson seconded the motion, motion passed.

Mr. Hill informed the Board he had hired a new employee named Steve Bauchman. He declared that he is going to be a good asset with his previous work experience. Mr. Hill reported that they worked on Buffalo Springs Road, American Canyon, patching for Coeur Rochester, Spring Valley, sand to Coeur Rochester, culverts, Duncan's Road, and bladed Packard.

*Salary Resolution, Kevin Machado, Road Dept. Supervisor:* Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the Salary Resolution for Kevin Machado, reclassifying him to Unclassified 1, \$28.10 per hour. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

**LANDFILL** – Mr. Hill informed the Board that he has some decent applicants for the open position. He is planning on looking them over this afternoon and calling for interviews this week.

**RECYCLING CENTER** – Mr. Crim reported that things must be going well because he hasn't heard any complaints.

**SENIOR CENTER/VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR** – Cristina Larson (Steele) was present.

Ms. Larson (Steele) reported that they added a customer to the homebound meals program. The average number of meals they serve is from 35 to 43, unless they have a big event. Ms. Larson (Steele) presented the Board with all the tasks she has completed and is planning on finishing before exiting the position. She thanked the Board and volunteered her time in the future if she is needed.

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS** – John Handka was present.

Mr. Handka reported that he is working on getting the heating maintenance completed. He is going to be working with Oasis AC & Heating Co. on a couple of heating units they are having problems with. Mr. Handka stated that they are also trying to keep up with the leaves on the ground. Mr. Rackley asked about lighting issues. Mr. Handka replied that bulbs are getting too hot upstairs in the Courthouse. He feels that the bulbs in the batch are faulty, and the vendor will be replacing them. Mr.

Handka told the Board that they received a load of fuel at the Airport. The bulk cost is \$4.82 a gallon, retail cost is \$5.75 a gallon. Lastly, Mr. Handka stated that all but one of the porta-potties were picked up from McDougal Field. He wanted to remind the Board they have been donated and he would like to extend a thank you.

PERSHING COUNTY FIRE/AMBULANCE –

*AMBULANCE:* Mrs. Nolan submitted a written report. Mrs. Hudson read the report.

*LOVELOCK FIRE:* Chief Wilcox was present.

Chief Wilcox reported that the 19 members are up to date on all certifications. The equipment is also up to date. Chief Wilcox stated that they are working on EMT classes. Mrs. Hudson asked if Grass Valley and Imlay could participate. Chief Wilcox replied that they are welcome once the schedule is set. He went to a Chief's meeting and is planning to go to a BLM meeting Thursday. Chief Wilcox recounted that they had a Halloween Haunted House at the Firehouse. Over 300 people came to enjoy it. Chief Wilcox gave an update on the fire truck in Las Vegas. He said that they got the parts and will go into the shop this afternoon. They should be able to pick it up within a week.

*IMLAY FIRE DEPARTMENT:* Mrs. Hudson stated that at the Chief's meeting she stressed that they require a monthly report. She reported that they are still waiting to see if they are approved for the compressors.

COMMUNITY CENTER – Diana Munden was present.

Ms. Munden thanked Mr. Handka for getting the new tables delivered so quickly. She reported that everything is going well, and the custodian is doing fantastic. She is working on getting the calendar on the website and cleaning up her office. She stated there might be a lost microphone. Ms. Munden is looking forward to a busy Christmas season She has been encouraging the Hospital to use the Community Center. They have been brainstorming events for the future. Mr. Crim asked Ms. Munden to get a hold of the High School to schedule an event.

CEMETERY – Cheryl Haas was present.

*Review of quotes received for moving the north fence line at Big Meadow Cemetery and approve most responsive quote:* Ms. Haas presented the Board with two quotes. The first one is from All Out Fence, LLC with a price of \$18,850.00. Ms. Haas stated that the quote from them was outrageous. The second is from Future Fence with a price of \$4,800.00. She stated that when she talked to Future Fence, they are planning on using as much existing fence as possible. Mrs. Hudson asked about a top rail. Mrs. Haas replied that she is not sure if we need a top rail. In the quote with Future Fence the top rail is included. Mrs. Haas stressed the importance of moving the fence. Mrs. Hudson asked where the money would come from to pay for the project. Ms. Haas replied that in the Cemetery budget there is \$4,000.00 in the Cemetery Reserve for Future Use account and \$2,000.00 in the Forestry Recruit account. She said that the budget for the Cemetery is slim and would deplete most of the funds. Mrs. Childs explained that there are two options. Option one would be take all the money from the Cemetery budget. Option two would be to split costs between the Cemetery and the Building Fund. Ms. Haas had concerns about depleting the Cemetery Fund due to other projects needed, including expanding the Unionville Cemetery. Mr. Rackley asked Mrs. Childs about the Building Fund. She clarified that there are a few projects already in the works.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the bid from Future Fence in the amount of \$4,800.00, with \$4,000.00 to be paid out of the Reserve for Future Use account in the Cemetery Fund and \$800.00 out of the Forestry Recruit account in the Cemetery Fund. Mr. Rackley seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Ms. Haas asked for clarification on if the ground needs to be leveled before the fence goes in. Mr. Rackley replied that yes it will need to be leveled. Ms. Haas will get will Mr. Hill to proceed with the ground leveling. Ms. Haas stated that at the next Cemetery Board meeting she will let the members know the action item was approved.

IT DEPARTMENT – Mr. Abbott was present. Danny Bax from Affiliated Technology Partners LLC. was present via Zoom.

Mr. Abbott reported that he received a call from AT&T, and they confirmed that they will be crediting the County \$24,000.00 to our account. The credit will be added to the \$47,000.00 that was already applied, making the account back up to where it should be. He said that the credit will be applied in the next billing cycle. Mr. Abbott stated that they are still adjusting and tweaking the switch to fiber internet project. He said that their support people have been great. They are sending someone out to work on a router. Mr. Abbott has also been working with the Clerk's office on the voter registration upgrade. Lastly, he is waiting for proposals to be submitted for the RFP project. Mrs. Hudson asked about the new internet. Mr. Abbott replied that when it works, it works great. He said that there are few issues that need tuning.

Mr. Bax gave an update on the AT&T fiber project implementation status. He stated that most of the connections have been completed. The credit issues have been addressed, \$24,350.00 will be refunded to the County. Lastly, he informed the Board that they will continue to work with Mr. Abbott until the project is completed wholly.

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

Mrs. Lusby-Angvick reported that she held the Nevada 95/80 Futures Program conference last week. There was lots of discussion and updates on the future of Nevada. Mrs. Lusby-Angvick is tentatively planning a groundbreaking for the Up-Rise/USDA Grant on November 21<sup>st</sup> at the Community Center. Mrs. Lusby-Angvick stated that she attended the Northern Nevada Development Authority's Economic Development and Industrial Real Estate Outlook meeting last Thursday. They talked about multiple counties real estate outlook, and she met some great contacts. Mrs. Lusby-Angvick reported that she is planning on attending the Nevada Main Streets Strategic Planning Program meeting. Mr. Sayles asked if there is an update on the Maverick gas station building project. Mr. Crim replied that there are some delays, not due to the County. Maverick does have their permit and can start any day.

PUBLIC DEFENDER – A written report was submitted.

#### **ELECTED DEPARTMENTS:**

RENE CHILDS, RECORDER-AUDITOR – Mrs. Childs reported that the auditors were on site doing research and testing. She invited the Board Members to come see her for any further explanation. Mrs. Childs stated that she has received family medical leave paperwork from an employee. The employee is planning on taking leave in January.

BRYCE SHIELDS, DISTRICT ATTORNEY – Mr. Shields reported that they have received confirmation from the DMV that the new employee can start Monday. The employee will split time between the DMV and the Child Support Office.

JERRY ALLEN, SHERIFF – Mr. Rackley reported that Mr. Allen cannot attend due to a meeting with Burning Man.

**DERBY FIELD AIRPORT:** Mr. Rackley reported that he has a meeting with someone that is interested in the caretaker position. He also ordered propane that the previous tenant was supposed to do.

Later in the meeting, Mr. Rackley added that an NDOT Contract crew came out to do their annual airport inspection. A report is to come.

**LIST OF PROPOSED PROJECTS, PRIORITIZING AND CHANGING /AMENDING THE PROGETS FOR ALLOCATION FOR THE COVID-19 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING FOR PERSHING COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,306,252.00:** Mrs. Childs stated that there are no changes to the ARPA Funding. The projects that are already in the works are the generators for the Senior Center and the Community Center, and an Emergency Operations trailer.

**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 \$4,044,600.00:** Mrs. Childs reported that the full amount of the LATCF funding is \$4,044,600.00, which was received in two payments of \$2,022,300.00.

Mr. Shields informed the Board that the grant funding for the public guardian position will expire May 2024. Mr. Crim asked how much the position costs. Mr. Shields stated \$55,000.00 per year, plus benefits. Mrs. Hudson stated that it should be added to the District Attorney's budget. Mr. Shields was hoping to get a commitment from the Board without going through the budget process. He said that he does recognize that it needs to be put in the County Budget. Mrs. Hudson stated that they will set aside \$85,000.00 for the public guardian position, to come out of the Contingency Fund.

Mrs. Wesner proposed that \$100,000.00 be set aside for landowners to help bait Mormon crickets. Mrs. Wesner predicts that they will be more prevalent next year. Mrs. Hudson stated that they will set aside \$100,00.00 for cricket abatement.

Mr. Rackley proposed an employee bonus program. The bonus would be a \$2,500.00 one-time bonus per full-time employee, and \$1,250.00 one-time bonus per half-time employee. Mr. Crim asked if that would include the Elected Officials. Mr. Shields stated that the Legislature sets their pay and County bonus would not be allowed. Mrs. Childs suggested that more research be done before making a motion. She stated that giving a bonus to the employees and not the Elected Officials could cause a problem.

The meeting recessed at 9:50 a.m. for a Litigation meeting and reconvened at 10:05 a.m.

**PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT/IMLAY WATER/PERSHING ELECTRIC:** Mr. Evans was present.

Mr. Evans gave the Board his end-of-month reports. He stated that he had a busy month of October.

**REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/HR REP:** Mrs. Wesner was present.  
**APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF NEW OPTIPLEX XE3 TOWER, MONITOR AND STAND FOR THE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,268.48 –** Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the purchase of the tower, monitor and stand for the Commissioner's Office in the amount of \$1,268.48. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

**DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL TO FILE PROTEST TO THE NEVADA STATE WATER ENGINEER FOR APPLICATION #92989 BY GRANITE SPRINGS DITCH AND PIPELINE COMPANY, LLC., CHANGING POINT OF DIVERSION FROM GRANITE SPRINGS VALLEY BASIN (078) IN PERSHING COUNTY TO CHURCHILL COUNTY, COST OF PROTEST \$30.00 –** Mrs. Hudson made the motion to approve the protest. Mr. Rackley seconded the motion, which passed.

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:** Mr. Rackley stated that he would like to put on the next agenda a letter of support from the Elko County Commissioners Office, regarding the sheep industry.

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

**BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS; BOARD LIAISON REPORTS:** Mrs. Hudson went to the Fire Chiefs' meeting last Friday night. She stated that Mr. Burke is doing a great job applying for grants. She requested a report be submitted monthly from all Fire Departments. Mrs. Hudson attended a Central Nevada Water Basin Authority meeting. She reported that they have received seven-million dollars to purchase and retire water rights. Most of the water rights purchases will be underground. The Humboldt

River Basin Water Authority also received eight million dollars to purchase and retire water rights. Mrs. Hudson went to a Hospital Board meeting where things are going well. Mrs. Hudson is planning on attending a Recreation Board meeting tomorrow.

Mr. Rackley met with two members of the Airport Advisory Board at the Airport yesterday. Mr. Rackley stated that Cummins Diesel came out to do annual maintenance on the generator for the T.V. Board. Mr. Rackley attended a meeting for the Central Nevada Health District. He reported that Covid-19 is still prevalent in Northern Nevada. Mrs. Hudson asked for a schedule on the nurse that comes to Lovelock. Mrs. Wesner replied that she has the schedule and will put it on the County's website.

Mr. Crim reported that the Grass Valley Advisory Board meeting was cancelled.

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

**APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:** Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the vouchers as presented. Mr. Rackley seconded the motion, which passed.

The meeting was recessed at 10:39 a.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

**INTERVIEW APPLICANTS FOR THE RECORDER-AUDITOR VACANCY; SELECTION OF APPOINTMENT OF RECORDER-AUDITOR; SET SALARY FOR THE POSITION:** Kathleen Lewis and Melanie Hamilton were interviewed for the Recorder-Auditor position. The Board asked each candidate a list of questions.

After the Senior Center Director interviews the appointment of Recorder-Auditor was discussed. Mrs. Hudson stated that she would be abstaining due to a family conflict. Mr. Rackley stated that Candidate Number 1's (Kathleen Lewis) experience is not specific enough to this position. He declared that Candidate Number 2 (Melanie Hamilton) is his clear choice. He stated that Number 2 (Melanie Hamilton) is qualified in accounting, is willing to ask questions and is prepared to do training. Mr. Crim agreed with Mr. Rackley that Candidate Number 2 (Melanie Hamilton) is his first choice. He acknowledged that she would need to be able to grasp that position quickly. Mrs. Wesner gave a salary number of \$63,965.00, which is the starting salary for this position as set by Nevada Revised Statute. She suggested that it will need to be augmented while she is training.

Mr. Rackley made a motion to offer the Recorder-Auditor position to Candidate Number 2 (Melanie Hamilton) at a base salary of \$63,965.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim. Mrs. Hudson abstained. Motion carried.

**INTERVIEW APPLICANTS FOR THE SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR POSITION; SELECTION OF APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR AND SET SALARY FOR THE POSITION:** The Commission was joined by Virginia Rose and Jeanne Munk of the Senior Center Advisory Board.

Four candidates were interviewed for the Senior Center Director position. They were Dora Barker, James Drake, Juliana "Anna" Hill, Nicole Reitz, and Gianna Gonzalez. The Board asked each candidate a list of questions. Mrs. Wesner also gave a skills test.

The Commissioners assigned each candidate a number corresponding to the order in which they were interviewed. Mrs. Hudson stated that Number 4 (Nicole Reitz) was the most qualified. She said that Number 3 (Julianna Hill) and Number 4 (Nicole Reitz) have previous experience applying for grants and would probably stay at the position the longest. Mr. Crim affirmed that Number 4 (Nicole Reitz) was his first choice. He stated that his second choice is between Number 5 (Gianna Gonzalez) and Number 3 (Julianna Hill) with a one-point difference. Mrs. Munk was impressed with candidate Number 4 (Nicole Reitz), but she was concerned that the difference in pay from what she is making now would be an issue. All the Commissioners agreed. Mrs. Munk gave more accolades to Number 4 (Nicole

Reitz). Mrs. Munk stated that her second choice was Number 2 (James Drake). She detailed why he was her second choice. Mrs. Munk was bothered by an answer from Number 5 (Gianna Gonzalez). Her third choice was Number 3 (Juliana Hill), but she is worried about longevity and her high expectations. Lastly, she stated that the new director will need to be able to handle criticism. Mr. Rackley confirmed that they all have the same first choice. He stated that he fears that she will not take the offer due to the pay scale. Mrs. Wesner replied that the budget can be augmented to account for a higher salary based on experience.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to offer Candidate Number 4 (Nicole Reitz) the position of Senior Center Director. Mr. Rackley seconded the motion, which passed.

Mrs. Wesner stated that the salary can be set at the next Board of Commissioners meeting.

As there was nothing further to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

Approved 12/6/2023: \_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Joe Crim, Chairman

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