

DECEMBER 20, 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; Paul Yohey, Deputy 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 November 15, 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: Mr. Rackley 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 Mrs. Hudson and passed.

ELECTED DEPARTMENTS:

JERRY ALLEN, SHERIFF – Sheriff Allen is attending a meeting with Burning Man today. Sheriff Allen wanted to thank Rocio, Vonni and Amanda for getting the AT&T bill reduced. The new dispatcher is in their second week of training and is doing well. The Jail is currently at 1/3 capacity, with 8 in custody.

Discussion and approval to change the terms of the agreement at no additional cost with Enterprise Rental for Sheriff's office vehicles which may include an increase of cost for the proposed inmate transport van and to include possible outlay of monies to cover the upfitting costs: Sheriff Allen stated that the cost of upfitting the transport van doubled. Mrs. Donaldson asked if the increase to the van could come out of LATCF, as she is concerned this would take us over the total amount approved by Taxation. She explained that the increase to the current vehicles is covered as the original quoted monthly payments were higher.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the change of terms of the agreement with Enterprise Rental for Sheriff's office vehicles, to include an increase of costs for the proposed inmate transport van, not to exceed \$22,000, which will be paid out of LATCF. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

UNCLASSIFIED DEPARTMENTS:

ROAD DEPARTMENT AND LANDFILL – Dan Hill was present.

Mr. Hill reported that he had a complaint about a washout on Coal Canyon and it has been fixed. They burned weeds on Old Victory Highway for four days. They are currently blading Holmstrom and Duncan's.

LANDFILL – Dan Hill was present.

Mr. Hill reported that the new employee seems motivated and hopefully does well.

Salary Resolution, K. Reitz: Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the Salary Resolution for Kevin Reitz, starting him at an advanced step of Landfill Operator I, Range 24, Step 1. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

RECYCLING – Mr. Crim stated that it has been slow. Penny Higby asked if the money had been received from the last load of recyclables that went out. The Board did not have that information. Mrs. Donaldson suggested that Ms. Higby go into her office as the staff could tell her the last payment received.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS – John Handka was present.

Mr. Handka reported that the total price for the lawnmower was approximately \$6,990.00 and it should be here after the first of the year. Mr. Handka also reported that they have been working on various building issues.

Lovers Aloft Annual Balloon Races, February 8-11, 2024, request for approval to use McDougal Field: Mr. Handka didn't have any issues with the request.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the request from Lovers Aloft to use McDougal Field for their Annual Balloon Races, February 8-11, 2024. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

Mr. Rackley received a request for the circus in May and he will bring it before the Board at a later date.

PERSHING COUNTY FIRE/AMBULANCE –

AMBULANCE REPORT: Marti Nolan emailed her report to Commissioner Hudson. They've had 17 calls since the last meeting. The EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) class is over, but they are still practicing for the test, which will be on January 6th. Ms. Nolan is working on their renewals.

GRASS VALLEY FIRE: Sean Burke was present via Zoom.

Chief Burke reported that they currently have 15 members and will be electing new officers in January. The new training plan is in final draft form. There will be an EMR (Emergency Medical Responders) class in the Spring. Their equipment looks good, with the exception of their second-out structure truck, which is out of service for maintenance. Chief Burke has no budget concerns. He also reported that he was notified by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) that our AFG (Assistance to Firefighters Grant) application was not successful.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS MANAGER/LEPC – Sean Burke was present via Zoom.

The next LEPC meeting is January 10th. The annual SERC (State Emergency Response Commission) certifications will be completed at this meeting. They do have a new member from the Central Nevada Health District. Mr. Burke stated that in regard to the VFA (Volunteer Fire Assistance) grant, all equipment orders have been placed. On November 28th they tested the Emergency Alert System. In regard to the United We Stand Grant, the Sheriff has received the radios that were ordered. The paperwork has been submitted to POOL/PACT for grants for Imlay and Rye Patch to obtain sliding toolboxes for the brush trucks. Mr. Burke will be attending the February POOL/PACT meeting to present on the compressor grant. He will start working on the Continuity of Operations planning in January. Mr. Burke thanked Mrs. Childs, Mrs. Hemp, and Mrs. Snodgrass for their service to the County.

IMLAY FIRE – Chief Trevor Montes was present.

Chief Montes reported that Gerry and Monique Monroe have both retired from the department. They currently have seven members. They have responded to several medical calls and a few fires. Most of their calls are highway accidents. Chief Montes has also spoken with POOL/PACT about some online training.

SAFETY/CEMETERY – Cheryl Haas was present via Zoom.

Ms. Haas stated that she is still meeting with POOL/PACT regarding the Safety Program. The next Safety meeting is January 22nd. She has been working with Mr. Evans to get his department's portion completed. The automatic door for the Library has been installed.

In regard to the cemeteries, they have had multiple internments at Lone Mountain. The Wreaths Across America event was held this past Saturday. The fencing project at Big Meadow has been completed. Ms. Haas stated that she needs to submit a work order to Buildings and Grounds to fill the holes. They were out marking plots at Big Meadow yesterday. The next Cemetery Board meeting is January 16th. Ms. Haas also reported that she may have an agenda item in the future to move the dirt piles outside of the cemetery areas.

PUBLIC DEFENDER – Salary resolution for E. Canchola: Mr. Rackley made a motion to approve the Salary Resolution for Erica Canchola, moving her from an Admin 1, Range 23, Step 6 to an Admin II, Range 26, Step 2. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hudson and passed.

IT DEPARTMENT – Justin Abbott was present.

Mr. Abbott stated that things are running as expected. They continue to work on various tickets. He also commended Mrs. Burrows and Mrs. Hemp for their work on the 911 credits with AT&T. Mrs. Hudson stated that she keeps hearing that the phones at the Community Center aren't working. Mrs. Burrows worked with FCC and reprogrammed them. Mrs. Wesner stated that she called Friday, and it was working. Mr. Crim stated that there was also an issue between department to department. Mr. Abbott stated that they are working on it.

Review and possible selection of proposal for the 2024 Dark Fiber Infrastructure RFP; Discussion of funding for possible selected proposal from LATCF for 2024/2025 Fiscal Year budget: Mr. Abbott stated that owning our own fiber reduces complexity.

Looking at LATCF funds, adding this project would leave just over \$100,000. Mrs. Burrows stated that there still isn't a shown benefit for the money approved for the Airport. The Dark Fiber project would benefit the County as a whole.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the 2024 Dark Fiber Infrastructure Proposal from NNE Construction, Inc. for the Sheriff's office, Courthouse, Administration Building and Annex in the amount of \$194,400.36, with funding to come out of the LATCF funds. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

ELECTED DEPARTMENTS, CONT.D:

LACEY DONALDSON, CLERK-TREASURER – Mrs. Donaldson did not have a department update.

Approval of County credit card for Kathryn North, Juvenile Probation, in the amount of \$5,000.00: Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the issuance of a credit card for Kathryn North, Juvenile Probation, in the amount of \$5,000.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

Approval to increase County credit card limit for Kate Martin, 11th Judicial District Court, from \$2,500.00 to \$5,000.00: Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve increasing the credit limit on Kate Martin's County credit card from \$2,500.00 to \$5,000.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

Approval of County credit card for Melanie Hamilton, Appointed Recorder-Auditor, in the amount of \$5,000.00: Mr. Rackley made a motion to approve issuing a County credit card to Melanie Hamilton, Appointed Recorder-Auditor with a \$5,000.00 limit. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hudson and passed.

Update on status of credit card machine for Marzen House Museum: Mrs. Donaldson did not have an update.

RENE CHILDS, RECORDER-AUDITOR – Melanie Hamilton, Deputy Recorder-Auditor, was present.

Mrs. Hamilton stated that it is a big transition in the office with two new employees.

Salary Resolution, C. Pierce-Lemos: Mr. Rackley made a motion to approve the Salary Resolution for Carrie Pierce-Lumos, Initial Employment at an advanced step of Admin Clerk II, Range 26, Step 2. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hudson and passed.

BRYCE SHIELDS, DISTRICT ATTORNEY – Mr. Yohey didn't have anything to report.

Salary Resolution, J. Hughes: Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the Salary Resolution for Jeanette Hughes, Initial Employment at an Advanced Step of Administrative Clerk I, Range 23, Step 7. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley. Mr. Crim abstained. Motion carried.

GRASS VALLEY ADVISORY BOARD: No one was present from the Grass Valley Advisory Board.

DERBY FIELD AIRPORT: APPROVAL OF PRELIMINARY GRANT APPLICATION FOR TAXIWAY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AT DERBY FIELD AIRPORT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,715,000.00 WITH GRANT MATCH OF \$107,188.00 TO BE BUDGETED IN FY24-25 – Mr. Rackley and Mrs. Donaldson spoke about the grant application. Mrs. Donaldson stated that she did speak with Armstrong Consultants and the grant match can be budgeted for in FY24-25. Mr. Rackley also stated that there are also State grant funds that may cover our match.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the preliminary Grant Application for the Taxiway Construction Project at Derby Field Airport in the amount of \$1,715,000.00 with a grant match of \$107,188.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS: CEMETERY BOARD – Letters were received from Dale Talcott and Jack Hursh asking to be reappointed.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to reappoint Dale Talcott and Jack Hursh to the Cemetery Board. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

WEED DISTRICT – A letter was received from Joe Gottschalk to be reappointed.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to reappoint Joe Gottschalk to the Weed District Board. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

REVIEW OF CONTRACTS RECEIVED FROM APEX COMPUTING (\$58,930.00 FOR 8 BIWEEKLY INVOICES) AND MANPOWER (\$55.00 PLUS 25% PER HOUR) TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY SERVICES OF RENE CHILDS TO ASSIST WITH TRAINING NEWLY APPOINTED RECORDER-AUDITOR, MELANIE HAMILTON; APPROVAL TO CONTRACT WITH APEX COMPUTING OR MANPOWER FOR TEMPORARY SERVICES: Mrs. Hamilton stated that Mrs. Childs' time would be very helpful for the budget process, but she doesn't feel Mrs. Childs needs to be there all the time. She would recommend the proposal from Manpower. Mrs. Childs stated that a representative from Apex Computing was present if the Board had any questions. Mrs. Hudson stated that the Apex proposal is defeating the purpose of Mrs. Childs retiring.

Mr. Rackley made a motion to contract with Manpower for the temporary services of Rene Childs to assist with training the newly appointed Recorder-Auditor. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hudson and passed.

HOLLY GATZKE, UNR COOPERATIVE EXTENSION: UNR'S EXTENSION MODEL FOR PERSHING COUNTY– Reganne Barrick was also present.

Ms. Gatzke gave a short presentation regarding the proposed structure changes to Pershing County Extension. They will be looking for one Extension Educator to cover Churchill, Mineral and Pershing Counties. It was noted that the current position in Churchill County has been vacant for four years. Mrs. Burke and Mrs. Barrick will continue reporting to the Board of Commissioners.

NATIONAL RADON MONTH, JANUARY 2024 – Mrs. Hudson made a motion declaring January 2024 National Radon Month. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE APPLICATION FILED BY GRANITE SPRINGS DITCH AND PIPELINE COMPANY, LLC, #92989, PROPOSING TO CHANGE THE POINT OF DIVERSION FROM PERSHING COUNTY TO CHURCHILL COUNTY; RECOMMENDATION OF COURSE OF ACTION TO THE NEVADA STATE WATER ENGINEER: Claire Bristol-Evans stated that it isn't an application to change the point of diversion, it is a new application to study the basin. She had a power point presentation that she showed the Board. Tom Gallagher also spoke to the Board.

Mrs. Hudson spoke about the over-appropriation of the basins in Nevada. Mr. Yohey asked if they were trying to prove beneficial use with their study. Harvey Whittemore, Principal of 40 Mile Desert, LLC, stated that rather than not have the water put to beneficial use during the study, they want to use that water on a parcel owned by 40 Mile Desert, LLC in Churchill County.

After further discussion between Mr. Yohey and Mr. Gallagher, Mr. Rackley made a motion to continue with the County's protest of the application filed by Granite Springs Ditch and Pipeline Company, LLC, #92989. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hudson and passed.

Penny Higby asked exactly where this is. Mr. Rackley stated it is the other side of Ragged Top.

EIDE BAILLY, PRESENTATION OF THE FY 2023 AUDIT REPORT; APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE FY 2023 AUDIT REPORT: Teri Gage and Pam Truss presented the 2023 Audit report.

Ms. Gauge stated that Pershing County received an Unmodified Opinion for the financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2023. This is the highest level of opinion given. She gave an overview of the County's financial statements. The assets of Pershing County exceeded its liabilities by \$18,505,961. The County's total net position increased by \$2,166,280. The County's ending fund balances also increased in comparison with the prior year. The County's total debt increased by \$401,071 during the current fiscal year, due to the purchase of a motor grader and leasing vehicles for the Sheriff's office. Other postemployment benefits liability decreased by \$635,078 over the prior year. The County did not have any violations of NRS (Nevada Revised Statutes) or NAC (Nevada Administrative Code). A significant deficiency was noted regarding the financial reporting, which is done by an external audit firm.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve and accept the FY 2023 Audit Report as presented. 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; 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: There are no changes to the ARPA funds as they have been fully earmarked and expended.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to add the \$194,400 to the LATCF funds spreadsheet for Dark Fiber and the \$22,000 for the increase to the Sheriff's transport van. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley and passed.

Barrie Medeiros asked about bonuses for county employees. Mrs. Hudson stated it is still on the list.

MUSEUM ADVISORY BOARD: INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW NOBLE GRAND HUMBUG CLAMPER ORGANIZATION – There was no one was present from the Museum Board or the Clampers.

REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR A NEW CLAMPER MONUMENT ON MONUMENT ROW AT THE MARZEN HOUSE MUSEUM – This item will be moved to a future agenda.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: There was no additional correspondence.

**MATTERS OF THE BOARD FOR DISCUSSION; BOARD MEMBER REPORTS;
BOARD LIAISON REPORTS:** Mrs. Hudson’s meetings are all coming up after the holidays. Mr. Rackley spoke about the Central Nevada Health District, stating that one board member resigned (the Mineral County Commissioner). They have named a replacement. Two more resignations may be forthcoming. Mr. Crim didn’t have anything to report.

PUBLIC INPUT: Penny Higby stated that this is the first meeting where everyone has acted like an adult.

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

Mr. Rackley made a motion to approve the vouchers for Vendor #452, Shayla Hudson, and #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 12:01 p.m.

Approved 1/17/24: _____ /s/
Larry Rackley, Chairman

Attest: _____ /s/
Lacey Donaldson, Clerk