

## FEBRUARY 7, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Larry Rackley, Chairman. Those present were Joe Crim 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 January 3, 2024 as submitted. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

**PUBLIC INPUT:** Sam Burton, BLM, spoke about the East Pershing Complex Horse gather. 2,547 horses have been removed. 2,875 is the target, but the weather hasn't been cooperating. A Notice of Intent for Spring Valley is in the works. The Special Recreation Permit for Burning Man is also in progress.

**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. Crim and passed.

### UNCLASSIFIED DEPARTMENTS:

SENIOR CENTER – Anna Hill was present.

Ms. Hill gave the Board the numbers for December and January. Mr. Rackley is helping with a grant application to purchase some new kitchen equipment and additional staff to expand to Imlay and Rye Patch.

*Approval to purchase food delivery truck from Grant #14-000-78-C6X23 in the amount of \$74,164.00:* Mr. Rackley noted that this grant was approved two years ago, but the truck never got ordered. Ms. Hill also reported that she is working on a trip to Virginia City to ride the train. She sent out a survey and this was one of the activities they requested.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the purchase of a food delivery truck from Grant #14-000-78-C6X23 in the amount of \$74,164.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

Mr. Rackley also spoke about the electrical grant that was approved at the same time as the food truck grant. Mr. Handka stated that last he heard, we were still waiting to have the new panel approved.

*Salary Resolution, C. Jimenez:* Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the Salary Resolution for Carmen Jimenez, moving her from a Cook I, Range 23, Step 3 to a Cook II, Range 24, Step 4. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

ROAD DEPARTMENT – Dan Hill was present.

Mr. Hill reported that he met with Cashman yesterday about the blade that is in for repairs. There is something wrong with the engine, but they can't figure out what. Most of the work has been done under the warranty and they did waive some labor costs, but we are currently into the project \$18,000.00. There are a couple options to move forward. They could replace the engine and all the components for approximately \$80,000. For about \$25,000 they will pull the engine out and do some testing to find where the oil block is, but this isn't a guarantee that the issue would be solved. Mr. Hill and Mr. Rackley will have further discussions regarding the best option.

Mr. Hill also reported that they had been blading throughout the County before yesterday's weather. Mr. Hill also received notice from Union Pacific regarding planned Railroad crossing maintenance. He will work with them to advertise the closures.

LANDFILL – Dan Hill was present.

*Approval to have Paul Filon attend SWANA classes and higher room rate in May in Phoenix, AZ:* Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve Paul Filon attending SWANA classes in Phoenix, AZ, to include a higher room rate. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

RECYCLING CENTER – Mr. Crim didn't have an update.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS – John Handka was present.

Mr. Handka stated that they have been working on the trailer at the airport to have it rentable by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Approval of Culpepper and Merriweather Circus to be held on May 11, 2024, for two shows at the McDougal Sports Complex:* Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the Culpepper and Merriweather Circus to hold two shows at the McDougal Sports Complex May 11, 2024. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

*Lovelock Street Fever Annual Show N Shine June 1-2, 2024, request to use Courthouse Park for the event:* Patty Burke was present.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the Lovelock Street Fever Annual Show N Shine, June 1-2, 2024 at the Courthouse Park. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

Mr. Rackley stated that there are two trucks at the Road Shop that could be swapped with Buildings and Grounds. He also stated that he has received two calls regarding a roof leak at the Grass Valley Community Center. Mr. Handka is aware, and they will get up there as soon as they can. He was asked if there was anything they could do in the meantime, and he gave them some sealant.

Mr. Handka also stated that there was some concern about people driving in the Unionville Cemetery. They don't see any evidence, but the gate has been locked and a notice will be posted to call the caretakers. Cheryl Haas spoke via Zoom. She disagreed, stating that people have been driving in there. She is in agreement regarding locking the gate. Ms. Haas would like access to the lock. Mr. Handka will get it for her.

AMBULANCE REPORT – Marti Nolan was present via Zoom.

Ms. Nolan stated that she just received a notice from Union Pacific regarding road closures for crossing maintenance. They had 23 calls since the last meeting, including a five patient vehicle accident last night. The ambulance that was being driven to Vegas for a new chassis broke down on the way there. They did get it towed to the shop. They are up to date on billing. The last person passed the EMT test last week, so they have five new EMTs. All renewals have been submitted.

LOVELOCK FIRE – Marti Nolan was present via Zoom.

Ms. Nolan stated that the fire truck made it to Vegas and should be done with maintenance in about two weeks. They responded to four fires since the last meeting, and the rescue truck has been out about four times as well. They continue prepping for the NSFA (Nevada State Firefighters Association) Conference, which will be held in Lovelock in June.

IMLAY FIRE – A written report was submitted.

Sean Burke reported that we were awarded the grant for the Imlay SCBAs (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus).

COMMUNITY CENTER – Diana Munden was present via Zoom.

Ms. Munden stated that she has the reservation calendar up to date. The scrapbooking event will be held this month. She has a number of weddings scheduled. 1,500 attendees have passed through the Community Center since October.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION/4-H – Colby Burke was present via Zoom.

Mrs. Burke reported that she just got the community calendar out. Mrs. Hudson reported that the Recreation Board will be purchasing a new livestock scale for 4-H and the March Madness Show.

IT DEPARTMENT – Justin Abbott was present.

Mr. Abbott reported that everything is going well. He has been focused on his department budget for next year and answering questions for other department's budgets. Mrs. Burrows has been handling the bulk of the service tickets. She has also been working on some networking issues. Mr. Abbott stated that he would be bringing quotes for the items he requested LATCF funds for to the Board soon. He spoke with NNE, and they are working on their permits.

Mrs. Hudson received an email regarding the AS400. Mrs. Burrows has been working on that as well. Mr. Abbott is working on solutions to get the data off the AS400.

**PROCLAMATIONS AND AWARDS:** CHRIS SNODGRASS, 20 YEARS OF SERVICE AND RETIREMENT; JOHN HANDKA, 10 YEARS OF SERVICE – Mrs. Snodgrass was not present. Mr. Handka was presented with a Certificate and Pin for his 10 years of service with Buildings and Grounds.

**DERBY FIELD AIRPORT:** UPDATE ON REPAIR OF A PORTION OF THE FENCING AROUND THE AIRPORT FROM FUTURE FENCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,400.00 – Mr. Rackley stated that 600 feet need to be replaced and the funding is available in the budget.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the repair of a portion of the fencing around the airport by Future Fence in the amount of \$2,400.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

**INTERVIEW OF APPLICANTS AND SELECTION OF AIRPORT CARETAKER POSITION** – Dale and Kimberly Lawson were present.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawson have submitted a letter of interest for the Airport Caretaker position. Mr. Lawson currently works for Pershing County Water Conservation District. They are currently living in the Imlay area and need to relocate closer to Lovelock. Mr. Lawson also has experience working at an FBO (Fixed Base Operator) in Oregon.

Mrs. Hudson disclosed that Mrs. Lawson rents a space from her in the salon, so she will be abstaining from any discussion and action regarding this item.

Mr. Crim asked if they had seen the rental agreement. Mr. Lawson stated that he had not seen it, but he did discuss it with Mr. Rackley. Mr. Rackley asked about pets. Mr. Lawson stated that they have two dogs, but they are outside and would be kenneled.

Mr. Crim made a motion to approve Dale and Kimberly Lawson as the new Derby Field Caretakers contingent on them signing the rental agreement. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley. Mrs. Hudson abstained. Motion carried.

It was noted that the lease would start March 1<sup>st</sup> contingent on the house being completed.

**APPROVAL TO CONTRACT WITH ARMSTRONG CONSULTANTS TO ASSIST IN DRAFTING AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE NEPA (NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT) PROCESS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A STORAGE FACILITY FOR VALLEY TECH SYSTEMS AT DERBY FIELD AIRPORT, THE COST OF WHICH MAY BE REIMBURSED BY VALLEY TECH SYSTEMS** – Mr. Rackley stated that Mr. Shields has been working on this. Mr. Shields stated that any construction at an airport has to go through this

process with NEPA. Mr. Shields hasn't reached an agreement with Valley Tech Systems at this time. His recommendation to the Board is to have Valley Tech Systems pay for it. Until an agreement is reached, we should hold off. This will be put back on a future agenda.

**APPROVAL TO CONTRACT WITH ARMSTRONG CONSULTANTS TO AMEND THE AIRPORT LAYOUT PLAN (ALP) TO INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION OF STORAGE FACILITY FOR VALLEY TECH SYSTEMS** – Mr. Rackley gave the Board a map of the revision prepared by Armstrong. Mr. Rackley also noted that an update to the ALP is included in the 2025 grant project.

Amanda Burrows asked if Mr. Rackley has a total for what everything in the five year plan will cost. Mr. Rackley stated that it is included in the five year plan. Leann Gallagher asked how improvements to the Airport help her as a citizen. Mr. Rackley stated that airports are important for Economic Development. Mrs. Hudson also spoke about the number of planes that land at Derby Field and purchase fuel.

Mrs. Gallagher asked why Buildings and Grounds can't install the fence. Mr. Rackley stated that it is specialized construction. She would like to see the data regarding the benefits of the airport and the money spent. Mr. Rackley also noted that even our grant match is covered with State funding.

Mr. Shields stated that this may be premature as well until we have more info on the previous item.

**APPROVAL TO DONATE PERSONAL PROPERTY PREVIOUSLY STORED AT DERBY FIELD AIRPORT** – It was noted that these are just miscellaneous items that have been stored at Derby Field for several years. Mr. Handka is asking to donate them to Jeff Kearns.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve donating personal property previously stored at Derby Field Airport to Jeff Kearns. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

#### **UNCLASSIFIED DEPARTMENTS, CONT.D.:**

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

Mrs. Lusby-Angvick reported that she met with the USDA's Rural Partners Network. They also spoke to the Museum and Library regarding grant opportunities, as well as meeting with the Lovelock Paiute Tribe. The local PCEDA met on Monday. They discussed goals for new year and spoke about the Nevada 95/80 Development District, as well as other opportunities. Mrs. Lusby-Angvick is meeting with NDOT today. On Friday she will attend the NV Works meeting, probably virtually. In regard to the Nevada 95/80, Mrs. Lusby-Angvick and Michelle Hammond are working on website updates. In March she will be attending the Annual Western Nevada Development District Summit.

*Approval to attend the National Main Street Conference in Birmingham, AL, May 6-8, 2024, and higher room rate; Approval to attend the Rural Roundup 2024 in Stateline, NV, April 10-12, 2024, and higher hotel room rate:* Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve Mrs. Lusby-Angvick's attendance at the National Street Conference in Birmingham, AL and the Rural Roundup 2024 in Stateline, NV, including higher room rates. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

**PUBLIC DEFENDER** – Mr. Cochran submitted a written report.

*Approval to attend the Mountain West Trial Skill Academy for Indigent Defense, April 28-May 3, 2024 paid by the Indigent Defense Fund:* Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve Mr. Cochran attending the Mountain West Trial Skill Academy for Indigent Defense, to be paid for by the Indigent Defense Fund. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

Later in the morning, Mr. Cochran came before the Board. Mr. Cochran stated that there is a DIDS (Department of Indigent Defense Assistance) conference over the holiday weekend in San Diego where his attendance was requested; however, he will not be able to attend.

**ELECTED DEPARTMENTS:**

**LACEY DONALDSON, CLERK-TREASURER** – Mrs. Donaldson reported that the Presidential Preference Primary was held yesterday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. They have to receive mail ballots through February 10<sup>th</sup>, so she will complete tally by Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup> for the Board to certify the results on Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. Turnout was low. They also sent out courtesy letters for delinquent taxes and have been busy answering calls and taking payments.

*Approval to increase credit card limit to \$2,000.00 for Laureen Basso-Cerini, Assessor:* Mr. Crim made a motion to approve the credit limit increase for Ms. Basso-Cerini's county credit card to \$2,000.00. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hudson and passed.

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

Mr. Evans gave the Board his month end reports. Mr. Evans reported that he's been busy with the Imlay Water project. Mrs. Hudson stated that we were approved for Phase II. Mr. Evans also stated that they've had some maintenance issues.

**APPROVAL FOR HIGHER ROOM RATE OF \$149.00 AT SPRINGHILL SUITES, SACRAMENTO, CA, JUNE 23-28, 2024, FOR PERRI STEWART TO ATTEND CONSTRUCTION EXAM CENTERS RESIDENTIAL BUILDING INSPECTOR TRAINING** – Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the higher room rate of \$149.00 at Springhill Suites, Sacramento, CA for Perri Stewart to attend the Construction Exam Center's Residential Building Inspector training. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

Mrs. Hudson added that Mrs. Stewart is also working on obtaining her D1 for the Imlay Water System.

**ELECTED DEPARTMENTS, CONT.D.:**

**MELANIE HAMILTON, RECORDER-AUDITOR** – Mrs. Hamilton stated that things are going well. Training is going very well. Mrs. Snodgrass helped for two payrolls and is done. She will continue answering texts as needed. Mrs. Hamilton has received budgets from all departments, but three, which had asked for extensions.

*Approval to purchase check printer and office printer in the amount of \$2,000.00:* It was noted that this is in the budget.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the purchase of a check printer and an office printer for the Recorder-Auditor's office in the amount of \$2,000.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

*Approval to change archiving software from Naviant OnBase, currently charging \$19,764.62 per year, to ReadyDoc for a cost of \$16,400.00 to convert all files, setup, and training with a future yearly charge of \$5,000.00:* Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve changing the archiving software from Naviant OnBase to ReadyDoc. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

*Approval to amend Option Tax Resolution to update current fiscal year and prioritize projects and possibly move unspent project funds to next fiscal year; Approval of any new items to amended Option Tax Resolution:* Mrs. Hamilton stated that it doesn't need to be completed today, but will need to be done soon. There are dates that need to change and projects that have been completed.

*Set dates for Budget Workshops:* The Board set March 20, 2024 starting at 1:00 p.m.; March 21<sup>st</sup> starting at 8:30 a.m.; and March 22<sup>nd</sup> starting at 8:30 a.m. for the budget workshops.

*Set date for Joint City/County meeting:* The Joint City/County meeting has already been set for Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF \$1500.00 BONUS TO EMPLOYEES WITHIN THE PCEA WHO HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED FOR SIX MONTHS AS OF 1-1-2024 (PART-TIME/3/4 TIME WILL BE PRORATED); APPROVAL OF BONUS AMOUNT FOR EMPLOYEES WITHIN THE PCLEA WHO HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED FOR SIX MONTHS AS OF 1-1-2024; APPROVAL OF BONUS AMOUNT FOR THE UNCLASSIFIED/NON-ELECTED DEPARTMENT HEADS WHO HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED FOR SIX MONTHS AS OF 1-1-2024:**

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve a \$1,500.00 bonus for 39 PCEA employees that have been employed with the County for six months as of January 1, 2024. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve a \$1,500.00 bonus for the twelve Deputy Sheriff's within PCLEA that have been employed with the County for six months as of January 1, 2024, seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

It was noted that the number of deputies was incorrect.

Mrs. Hudson amended her motion to approve the bonus for 14 deputies, not 12. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve a \$1,500.00 bonus for 15 Unclassified/Non-Elected Department Heads who have been employed with the County for six months as of January 1, 2024. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

Leann Gallagher stated that there was no discussion regarding this item. She would like some justification for giving bonuses. Mr. Rackley stated that there is money available in the LATCF funds to benefit the employees. She wanted to know what else the money could be used for. Mr. Shields stated that the guidance given on these funds was that they can be used in the same manner as regular county funds, with the exception of paying a lobbyist. Mrs. Gallagher stated that she hasn't heard of other places giving bonuses to employees that have only been employed for 6 months. Amanda Burrows asked why there wasn't any discussion on this item. Mrs. Hudson stated that the benefit should be given equally to all groups of employees. Mrs. Burrows also stated that she heard some of the department heads had unfavorable evaluations, so how is this justified. The bonus is not being given based on evaluations.

**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:** Amanda Burrows has requested that this item be put on the agenda as a timed event.

There were no changes made to the COVID-19 American Rescue Plan funding. The LATCF spreadsheet will be updated to include the employee bonuses.

**ELECTED DEPARTMENTS, CONT.D:**

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE – Jennifer Hill was present.

Mrs. Hill stated that they have mailed out Personal Property bills.

*Approval to contract with Tax Management Associates, Inc. to conduct Statewide Audit of Heavy Equipment accounts, United Rental N. America and Cashman/Empire Southwest, LLC:* The cost is approximately \$9,100 and would come out of the Assessor's Tech Fund if they decide to move forward. Mrs. Hill stated that they had been contacted, as other counties are moving forward with an audit, to see

if they wanted to join. Ms. Basso-Cerini is still researching whether or not to move forward. Mr. Shields didn't feel the Board can make a decision until Ms. Basso-Cerini does. Mrs. Hill stated that Ms. Basso-Cerini would like approval from the Board, so that if she decides to move forward, they don't have to wait for another meeting.

Mr. Crim made a motion to contract with Tax Management Associates, Inc. to conduct a Statewide Audit of Heavy Equipment accounts, contingent upon Mrs. Basso-Cerini's decision to move forward. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hudson and passed.

**BRYCE SHIELDS, DISTRICT ATTORNEY** – Mr. Shields stated that the Child Support/DMV vacancy closed last Friday, and they are reviewing the applications. He will work with Mrs. Wesner to set up interviews.

**JUDGE KAREN STEPHENS, JUSTICE COURT** – Judge Stephens reported that when they started the civil infractions, they were using a separate vendor, but everyone has been unhappy, so they will be going back to Court View for all their cases.

**JERRY ALLEN, SHERIFF** – Sheriff Allen did not have anything to report, except the Jail's roof is leaking. They are in the process of moving into the new squad room.

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS: GRASS VALLEY ADVISORY BOARD RESIGNATION** – A letter was received from Mike Evans resigning from the Grass Valley Advisory Board.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to accept the resignation from Mike Evans for the Grass Valley Advisory Board. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

**GRASS VALLEY ADVISORY BOARD** – Letters of interest were received from Rick Frost and Kathy Lewis. It was noted that the open seat is for subdivisions.

Mr. Crim made a motion to appoint Kathy Lewis to the Grass Valley Advisory Board. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hudson and passed.

**TELEVISION DISTRICT** – A letter was received from Roger Mancebo asking to be reappointed to the TV District Board.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to reappoint Roger Mancebo to the Television District Board. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

**BOARD OF EQUALIZATION** – A letter of interest was received from Mike Phillips.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to appoint Mike Phillips to the Board of Equalization. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

**SENIOR CENTER BOARD** – A letter was received from Sharron Montes expressing interest for the Senior Center Board.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to appoint Sharron Montes to the Senior Center Board. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

**MUSEUM ADVISORY BOARD:** Wendy Nelsen and Jack Hursh were present from the Museum Board.

**REQUESTING APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR A CCCHP (COMMISSION ON CULTURAL CENTER HISTORICAL PRESERVATION) GRANT** – This grant would be to replace the roof.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the application for a CCCHP Grant. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

**FIRST READING OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 2.16 TO EXPAND THE NUMBER OF MUSEUM BOARD MEMBERS FROM 5 TO 7 AND TO REMOVE TERM LIMITS**

FOR BOARD MEMBERS – Mr. Shields reported that in 2016, the Museum Board was reduced from 7 members to 5, as there was an issue obtaining a quorum.

Mrs. Hudson introduced Bill #355, an Ordinance amending Chapter 2.16, entitled Museum Advisory Board, of Title 2 of the Pershing County Code, by increasing the number of Museum Board members from five to seven, 2.16.010; and eliminating term limits, 2.16.020.

**REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL:** Mr. Shields spoke about the request the Board approved earlier in the meeting for the Circus, stating that they will need to name the County as an additional insured on their insurance policy. Mr. Rackley will make sure that happens.

**REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/HR REP:** Mrs. Wesner submitted the Commissioner’s office budget.

She also prepared the letter to the State for the City County Relief Tax. Mrs. Hamilton stated that she received a call, and they are requesting reasons to keep the guaranteed status. Mrs. Wesner will work with Mrs. Hamilton.

**MARSHALL SMITH AND JARROD HICKMAN, POOL/PACT RISK MANAGEMENT: UPDATE ON PERSHING COUNTY WRITTEN WORKPLACE SAFETY PLAN AND PERSHING COUNTY ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE PROGRAM –** Mr. Smith and Mr. Hickman were present via Zoom.

Mr. Smith stated that Mr. Hickman has been working very closely with Ms. Haas and Mr. Burke on this project. Mr. Hickman stated that he provided the final draft of the Safety Plan to Ms. Haas and Mr. Burke on Friday, to be reviewed by the Safety Committee, Legal Counsel and then the Commission. The POOL/PACT Loss Control Committee met yesterday and approved our grant request to purchase an SCBA refill unit for Imlay.

Mr. Smith also spoke about the Enterprise Risk Management Excellence Program. Each department is analyzed. Once completed, Pershing County would be eligible to apply for an award of \$27,000.00. There are still some items being worked on, but we have until March of 2025 to complete the program.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE: DISCUSSION REGARDING EMAILS RECEIVED BY COMMISSIONERS REGARDING THE ISSUES OF THE DOMINION VOTING MACHINES BEING EASILY HACKABLE –** Mr. Rackley stated that the last few weeks they have all received several emails regarding the Dominion Voting Machines. He also stated that he saw a news program where a machine was broken into with just a pen. He stated that there was no action to be taken, but they wanted to bring it up, since they had all received the emails. Mrs. Hudson stated that at this time they can’t change the machines.

Mrs. Donaldson stated that we do use Dominion voting machines, and have for 20 years; however, we have never used the software version that was mentioned in the report. Mrs. Donaldson also stated that there are policies and procedures, protocols, and Chain of Custody logs in place to prevent unwanted access.

Mr. Abbott spoke to the cyber security aspects. Mr. Abbott has done some research, and added that he is not a registered voter, and he is politically neutral. He is simply speaking to the cyber security issues that have been brought to light over and over. The report out of Georgia did speak to legitimate



problems with those particular machines and software version. The software version in those machines is 5.5A, which has never been certified for use in Nevada. The version Nevada is using this year is 5.17. All of the vulnerabilities have been addressed either through software or through Nevada's processes and procedures for election security. Mr. Abbott also pointed out that one thing that is missing from Professor Halderman's analysis is any controls outside those that exist on the machines themselves. Security is not just one layer. Controls such as chain of custody and personnel on site observing the conduct of voting are not addressed. Mrs. Donaldson added the Professor Halderman was granted unlimited access to the machines in his lab. Mr. Abbott stated that if you have a system in your laboratory, with unrestricted access for three months, you are going to find vulnerabilities. Mr. Abbott encouraged people to review another report that was released alongside Halderman's report, which was conducted by an independent analysis group. They took all the vulnerabilities that were discovered and addressed their operational feasibility. Mr. Abbott also spoke about the news article regarding compromising a machine with nothing but a pen, stating that it has been sensationalized. What he actually did was use a pen to reboot the ballot marking device into a diagnostic mode.

Mr. Abbott addressed Pershing County, which is really all he can speak to, stating that he has had discussions with Mrs. Donaldson regarding how the voting equipment is secured from cyber-attacks and physical attacks. Any of the vulnerabilities that people could exploit are easily defeated by just observing people using the machines. Mrs. Donaldson's staff and poll workers are trained to observe the voting process and would not let anyone mess around with the back of a machine. He understands people's concern regarding security. Pershing County, at the very least, has taken every reasonable step to ensure elections are fair and secure. He advises that you take the headlines you read with a grain of salt.

Mrs. Hudson stated that she felt discussion was warranted with all the emails from voters with concerns. Mrs. Donaldson stated that she would bet that none of the emails actually came from Nevada voters. After the 2022 elections, they were inundated with "voter" requests for audits, and it was found that a majority of the requests were not from Nevada voters.

Mrs. Burrows asked how the system is patched. Mr. Abbott stated that was one of the very first questions he asked Mrs. Donaldson. Dominion performs the software updates and then there is a verification process that every Clerk goes through to independently verify the patch. Mrs. Donaldson added that the patch is also certified by the State and the Election Commission. Mrs. Burrows asked how often a patch is installed. Mrs. Donaldson stated that it is whenever new software is certified, not necessarily monthly or every election.

Mrs. Burrows stated that Dominion costs the County a lot of money and we don't have to pay for it. She asked why we couldn't just do a hand count like Nye County. Mrs. Donaldson stated that Nye County is not "just" doing a hand count. She added that yes, elections are expensive. Mrs. Burrows asked why that couldn't be considered. Mr. Abbott stated that he would think hand counting would first, introduce more points of failure and costs more due to personnel costs. He added that they are not just taking the data from the machines, there is a paper trail. Mrs. Donaldson stated that the machines have a voter verified paper printout, that is audited after every election. Mr. Abbott also stated that the number of registered voters is public record. All you have to do is look at the results and compare it to the number of registered voters and you will see whether there is fraud going on that is statistically meaningful.

Leann Gallagher stated that when she voted it seemed very safe and she thanked the staff. She did ask if it was known what the maximum number of voters that have voted in the last few years was. Mrs. Donaldson stated that she doesn't know that number off the top of her head. Pershing County has approximately 3,500 voters and during a normal election 70-80% turnout. She also asked how much the

Dominion contract costs. Mrs. Donaldson stated that she just submitted the current voucher, and it was for \$19,000. We do receive partial reimbursement from the State. Mrs. Gallagher stated that she feels this is a knee jerk reaction to a problem that may have happened elsewhere, and she isn't concerned. Mr. Rackley and Mrs. Hudson stated that Mrs. Donaldson does a great job.

**BOARD MEMBER REPORTS; BOARD LIAISON REPORTS:** Mrs. Hudson attended the Water Conference last week. She has an upcoming meeting with the State Water Engineer to discuss how they plan to move forward. There is greater interest to retire water rights than there is funding available. She also reported that she signed the paperwork for another draw reimbursement from the Imlay Water System project.

Mr. Rackley stated that Central Nevada Health District meets tomorrow in Fallon.

**PUBLIC INPUT:** Tina Gallagher asked about the Opioid Settlement funds. Mr. Shields stated that a Needs Assessment is currently being done.

Leann Gallagher stated that she has been to several meetings where no information was given, but was pleased with the information given today.

**VOUCHERS:** Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the vouchers with the exception of vouchers for Vendor #556, Larry Rackley; #452, Shayla Hudson; and #255, Joe Crim. Motion seconded by Joe.

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

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

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the voucher for Vendor #255, Joe Crim. Motion seconded by Mr. Rackley. Mr. Crim abstained. Motion carried.

As there was nothing further to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Approved 03/20/24: \_\_\_\_\_ /s/  
Larry Rackley, Chairman

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