

FEBRUARY 21, 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: There were no minutes submitted for approval due to the Clerk being busy with the Presidential Preference Primary.

PUBLIC INPUT: David Brady, Unionville resident, spoke regarding the Unionville Cemetery. When the County took ownership, he was told that there would be a meeting and he hasn't seen anything. The Board suggested that he attend the next Cemetery Board meeting.

Scott Nichols, Ormat Technologies, spoke about community opportunities for lower temp geothermal resources and gave an update regarding their current and future projects.

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 or directly restrict the formation, operation, or expansion of a business. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

UNCLASSIFIED DEPARTMENTS:

RECYCLING – Commissioner Crim didn't have anything to report.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS – John Handka was present.

Mr. Handka reported that they are about done with the Airport rental remodel. The countertop must cure for 7-10 days. Mr. Handka stated that his crew was helped by the inmate crew and did a wonderful job.

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

SENIOR CENTER – Approval of ADSD (Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division) Subaward grant application for Nutrition 2024 ARPA FRF (American Recovery Plan Act – Fiscal Recovery Funds) in the amount of \$296,917.54: Mr. Rackley spoke about the grant application. Mrs. Hudson felt that with Mr. Rackley's knowledge of the grants, etc., he should take back over as the liaison for the Center. Mr. Crim did not have a problem with that.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the ADSD Subaward grant application for Nutrition 2024 ARPA FRF in the amount of \$296,917.54. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

Salary Resolution, A. Hill: Mr. Crim made a motion to approve the Salary Resolution for Anna Hill, moving her from \$16.50 per hour to \$17.75 per hour, effective February 19, 2024. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hudson and passed.

Mrs. Hudson stated that the new electrical panel has been ordered, but it is six months out.

AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT – Marti Nolan was present via Zoom. Ms. Nolan reported that they had training last night. They've had 14 calls since the last meeting. All renewals have been submitted to the State and they are caught up on the billing. Mrs. Hudson asked who the Assistant Chief is. Ms. Nolan stated that it is Rich Wagner. She will provide the Board with a list of their officers.

LOVELOCK FIRE – Marti Nolan was present via Zoom.

Ms. Nolan stated that they've had one fire call and two rescue calls. The maintenance on the fire truck is done and they are just waiting for the call to pick it up. She stated that the Ambulance will take

another month or two. Ms. Nolan stated that they are working on preparations for the NSFA (Nevada State Firefighters Association) Conference, which will be held in Lovelock on June 19-23, 2024.

GRASS VALLEY FIRE / LEPC – Mrs. Hudson read a report submitted by Chief Burke.

Chief Burke reported that they have three vacancies on the department. They've had 22 calls so far this year. The EMR (Emergency Medical Responders) class is planned for March 1st through April 12th. Chief Burke will appear before the Commissioners for his budget testimony on Friday, March 22nd. He would like an item on the next agenda to discuss the water tender replacement.

In regard to Emergency Management, we obtained the \$36,000 grant for the Imlay Volunteer Fire Department's SCBA Air Compressor. It has been ordered and he expects delivery in March. He will be attending the Nevada Emergency Preparedness Association Conference in Las Vegas February 26-28, 2024. Attendance is mandated by the State Department of Emergency Management and paid for with the EMP grant. Mr. Burke continues working on the other grants and has been testing the Emergency Alert System.

SAFETY/CEMETERY – Cheryl Haas was present.

Ms. Haas stated that there was a Safety meeting yesterday. They reviewed the Safety Plans. A member did ask what the protocol is regarding lock downs, and they will be working on that. Ms. Haas has been reviewing work order requests, and sending out secondary requests if still needed.

Request for approval to donate old AED to the Catholic Youth Group: Ms. Haas stated that it is an older unit that she overlooked and had already been replaced. The battery does need to be replaced, but she has one of those as well.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve donating an old AED to the Catholic Youth Group. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

In regard to the cemeteries, Ms. Haas reported that there were some concerns regarding the Unionville Cemetery. At the last meeting she was caught off guard that the Unionville Cemetery gates are locked. There isn't a man-gate, so this cuts off all access. Ms. Haas asked what the chain of command is; is Mr. Handka the final authority? Ms. Haas stated that she thought the Advisory Board made recommendations to the Commission. Mrs. Hudson stated that Mr. Handka has say when it comes to county facilities. She also stated that it was her understanding that there is a combination lock on the gate. She asked why the caretakers couldn't unlock it in the morning and lock it back up at night. Mr. Rackley was concerned that they wouldn't have time every day. Mr. Crim doesn't feel the gate should be locked; people should have access. He doesn't feel it would be feasible to have the caretakers open and close the gate daily. Mrs. Hudson asked about signage. There is nothing that says, "no vehicles allowed in cemetery". Mr. Rackley suggested getting a quote for a man-gate. Dale Talcott, Cemetery Advisory Board member, was also present. Mr. Talcott stated that one of the issues with cars driving in there is that there are several unmarked graves.

It was decided to post signage regarding vehicles in the cemetery and to get quotes for a man-gate to be installed.

ROAD DEPARTMENT – Dan Hill was present.

Mr. Hill was late getting to the meeting as they have another blade that has mechanical issues. He wanted to get it on the truck while it was still cold. Mr. Hill will be meeting with Empire to discuss the bill for the other blade. He has also been prepping for the railroad jobs. He got some more pre-emergent to put down. Mr. Hill and Sheriff Allen met with the Railroad regarding putting in a temporary crossing on Rogers. Travis Delevega didn't pass his CDL (Commercial Driver's License) test, but is retaking it tomorrow. Mr. Hill stated that they are blading various areas of the county.

Approval to go to bid for Mag Chloride: It was noted that this is an RTC project.

Mr. Crim made a motion to approve going to bid for Mag Chloride. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hudson and passed.

LANDFILL – Dan Hill was present.

They cleaned up the Grass Valley transfer site, but it needs to be done again. It was noted that the Imlay Transfer site doesn't require as much clean up.

IT DEPARTMENT – Justin Abbott was present.

Mr. Abbott reported that the last couple weeks have been business as usual. Mrs. Burrows was able to resolve the issue with the AS400 for Justice Court. Mr. Abbott participated in the new voter registration and voter check-in training in the Clerk's office. The department is also looking into other connection options for the county buildings in outlying areas.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Heidi Lusby-Angvick was present.

Mrs. Lusby-Angvick reported that we were awarded the Low Power FM Station and have three years to put it to use. There is a webinar tomorrow. Dave Skelton and Sean Burke has some interest, but Mr. Burke doesn't think it should be used for only Emergency Management. Some other communities allow community members to play their personal music on the station. Mrs. Lusby-Angvick stated that the Western Nevada Development District Summit is coming up. She may have some information to share next month regarding a housing opportunity.

Approval to attend the NV Lithium Circular Economy Conference in Reno, April 8-9, 2024, with a higher hotel room rate: Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve Mrs. Lusby-Angvick's attendance at the NV Lithium Circular Economy Conference in Reno, April 8-9, 2024, including a higher hotel room rate. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

ELECTED DEPARTMENTS:

LACEY DONALDSON, CLERK-TREASURER – Mrs. Donaldson reported that she has one final task to perform on the Presidential Preference Primary (PPP), which should be done this week. The office participated in some training with the State last week on the new Election Management System, which should go live prior to the June Primary. They have started the year end processes for delinquent taxes. Lastly, Mrs. Donaldson spoke about the Vote History Credit issue that happened over the weekend. Mrs. Donaldson stressed that this was a State Coding issue, not an issue with County data. Mrs. Donaldson hadn't posted vote history to the system when the issue occurred.

MELANIE HAMILTON, RECORDER-AUDITOR – Mrs. Hamilton stated that things in the office are going smoothly, and staff is doing well.

Approval to remove inventory items #AR0539, Scanner; AR0535, Scanner; and TV0184, DR Solo Drone: It was noted that the TV Board turned in the drone as it is outdated, and they can no longer use it. Mr. Abbott will take a look at the drone to see if it can be updated.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to remove the two scanners as noted. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

Request for additional funds from LATCF to pay employee bonus taxes and Worker's Compensation for a total \$10,898.73: Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the additional amount of \$10,898.73 to cover the Medicare and Worker's Compensation on the employee bonuses, to be taken from the LATCF funds. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

Approval of amended Option Tax Resolution: Mrs. Donaldson noted that at the last meeting this was discussed, and Mr. Shields was going to work with Mrs. Hamilton on the amendments. This will be put back on a future agenda.

Approval to transfer approximately \$78,000.00 (or final amount needed upon completion) from Option Tax Fund to the Road Fund to repair Motor Grader: Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve transferring \$78,000 from the Option Tax Fund to the Road Department to pay for repairs to a motor grader. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

GRASS VALLEY ADVISORY BOARD: No one was present.

DERBY FIELD AIRPORT: Mr. Rackley didn't have anything new to report. He is working with Mr. Shields on two lease agreements.

NEVADA DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES: APPROVAL OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ON GROUNDWATER BASINS WITHIN PERSHING COUNTY FOR FY JULY 1, 2024 TO JUNE 30, 2025, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$44,155.72 (HUALAPAI FLAT, \$1,731.71; BLACK ROCK DESERT, \$95.30; DESERT VALLEY, \$4.07; GRASS VALLEY, \$14,390.33; IMLAY, \$7,352.72; LOVELOCK VALLEY, \$11,158.59; DIXIE VALLEY, \$1,435.34; BUENA VISTA VALLEY, \$6,990.55; BUFFALO VALLEY, \$997.11) – Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the special assessments as presented in the amount of \$44,155.72. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

REPORT FROM ADMIN: Mrs. Wesner stated that everything is going fine. She is continuing to work on HR matters and regular office calls. She attended a meeting in Winnemucca with the Department of Ag regarding the Mormon cricket/grasshopper issues. If you see them, report them. You can either report them to the BLM or to Mrs. Wesner's office.

AGENDA ITEMS: Mrs. Donaldson stated that she spoke with Mr. Hill and Mr. Crim regarding the RTC budget. She submitted some preliminary numbers to Mrs. Hamilton for the budget, but stated that they should probably hold a meeting. An RTC meeting will be scheduled for March 6th at 8:00 am.

CORRESPONDENCE: There was no correspondence discussed.

MATTERS OF THE BOARD FOR DISCUSSION: Mr. Crim reported that there was a Cemetery Board meeting and Ms. Haas reported on that.

Mrs. Hudson has an IEC meeting on March 4th. After that meeting, the Navy will also be meeting with Grazing Permit Holders. Mrs. Hudson also has a meeting with the Division of Water Resources on March 19th regarding the outcome of the Humboldt River Basin workshops.

Mr. Rackley attended the Airport Advisory Board meeting. There is a speed contest tentatively scheduled in March at the Airport, but Mr. Rackley didn't have the information yet. Mr. Rackley also reported that he emailed the Administrator of the Central Nevada Health District regarding the City's concerns. Once he receives a response, he will let everyone know. Mr. Rackley also stated that all the licensing has been renewed for all stations on Toulon Peak.

The meeting recessed at 9:57 a.m. and reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES: NOTIFICATION OF SELECTION OF NEWLY APPOINTED LIBRARY DIRECTOR, KAMERON MITCHELL; RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PERSHING COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO SET LIBRARY DIRECTOR SALARY TO BE EFFECTIVE MARCH 4, 2023 – Tami Belcher, Chairman of the Library Board, was present along with Mr. Mitchell. The Library Board is recommending a starting salary of \$50,000. Mr. Rackley asked Mrs. Wesner about the salary. Mrs. Wesner stated that Unclassified salaries are set by the Board. She also stated that the \$50,000 was the starting point for someone with a degree. Mr. Rackley also did some research regarding qualifications. Mrs. Belcher stated that neither candidate met the qualifications set by Statute to be certified, but as soon as Mr. Mitchell does, he will work toward his Certification. Mrs. Belcher stated that with a high school diploma, the person must have seven years' experience in a Library. Mr. Mitchell will have seven years in August. Mr. Mitchell spoke about the courses he would be required to take, stating that there are no in state colleges that offer Library Science, so he will have to find an online program. It was noted that the cost for those courses could be included in the Library's budget.

Mrs. Hudson made a motion to set the salary for the newly appointed Library Director, Kameron Mitchell, at \$45,000. Once he obtains his Library Certification the salary will be moved up to \$50,000. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE/HIRE LIBRARY TECHNICIAN I POSITION – Mr. Crim made a motion to approve advertising and hiring to fill the vacant Library Technician I position. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hudson and passed.

The meeting recessed at 10:10 a.m. and reconvened at 10:15 a.m.

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: No changes to ARPA funding. Regarding LATCF, it was noted that the approval of the additional Medicare and Worker’s Comp expense brings the Contingency Fund down to \$39,399. Mrs. Hudson spoke about a water tender for Grass Valley. Mrs. Wesner did find five or six units that she sent to Chief Burke. It is in Grass Valley’s budget, but when we went out to bid, the cost came in too high. We may need to use some of these funds to cover the unbudgeted amount.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY UPDATE: Mr. Shields stated that he interviewed five candidates for the vacant DMV/Child Support position and did make an offer. If the person accepts, they will have to give two weeks notice to their current employer. Mr. Shields also noted that it takes longer to get someone actually working in both these departments due to the extensive background check that is required.

REPORT FROM LEGAL COUNSEL: No report was given.

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

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS: Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the vouchers, with the exception of vouchers for Vendor #420, Pershing General Hospital, that come out of Fund 004; Vendor #2490, Banner Churchill; Vendor #556, Larry Rackley; and Vendor #452, Shayla Hudson. Motion seconded by Mr. Crim and passed.

Mr. Shields will speak to the Sheriff’s office regarding the vouchers for #420 and #2490.

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

As there was nothing further to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Approved 3/06/24: _____/s/_____
Larry Rackley, Chairman

Attest: _____/s/_____
Lacey Donaldson, Clerk