



## **Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board**

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board held on October 20, 2022, 6 p.m. at the Gerlach Community Center, 410 Cottonwood, Gerlach, NV 89412, and via teleconference.

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** – Tina Walters, Elisabeth 'Schatzi' Gambrell, Andy Moore, Kristy Evans (via zoom), Allen Nash

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – the pledge was recited

### **3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT –**

Scott Nichols, representative with Ormat, said I want to just give you a follow up from the August meeting. We had discussed an AED which has been ordered that Mr. Pelt gave us information on. So that's been ordered, and we shouldn't have that delivered in November. The BLM EA is being reviewed now. I have not heard a final word or update on that. But I understand they probably expect that to be finished with the most recent public comments. They'll probably have that completed by early November, around November 1, but I can't guarantee that I don't know that that's a solid day. Following up on the noise and visual issues that we've been discussing with CAB and community members over the past year. Regarding the drill rig noise, if you have the computer capability, to go online to the BLM e-planning website, I believe I sent that to Schatzi and to Andy. There's a link there to the EA document. There's a very good noise analysis that I want to refer people to. In support of that noise analysis, I just want to let people know that I stopped at the Brady hot springs project and monitored a wellhead. Now we're not proposing wellheads. But if a geothermal facility were to ever be developed, and there is a production well associated with that, the wellhead over at Brady that I monitored at 100 feet was 66 decibels. I have a decibel meter on my phone. It's not a lab instrument, but it is on the phone. And for reference, I also stopped here at Santa Emidio this afternoon and I talked with our drilling folks, and they said if the EA is favorable, and we drill it Gerlach, they would be using the small rig that's located on the north end of our Santa Emidio project. I can't guarantee it would have the same serial number but something of that nature. Mr. Kessler and I stopped at that rig, and I monitored the decibel level there. And at 300 feet, we have a decibel level of 70 db. So Schatzi asked for a little bit of a reference there. We had some music playing earlier before the meeting started. My voice right there is 80 to 90 decibels of what I'm speaking at this distance. Scott and I were also out of well 1810 A, the first little well site it's been drilled two or three times. He turned on music to demonstrate the decibel level at 66. I can't say that you will hear that in this room. Remember, we're located a mile and a half away. But 300 feet, it was 70 decibels, 66 decibels, 100 feet from an actual producing Well. I started to tell you about well 1810A. Schatzi had requested some months ago; it would look much better if we could dress up that little wellhead out there and get some seed on it. The BLM did get me a seed mixture. That seed mixture has been ordered now. And that'll be planted later here before the first of the year as it cools off, and when conditions are low better for seeding. So we won't tear up the whole pad because there's some good saltbush and forming saltbush there. We'll get in there with the tractor scarify latency down and rake it back over arrow back over with the change.

Edwin Lygar said I'm running for the Washoe County Commission, district five. I came up today to talk to some people and knock on doors. This is the friendliest place I've ever been. And everybody has been so nice. And I've had so many wonderful conversations with people I just ran into you on the street and at the doors. And I've heard so many different concerns and issues. It seems to me that we need more flexibility and attention paid to how we're having development out here that we need more flexible zoning, and that there are a lot of issues that the county has not addressed. I know there's a lot more to it. And I'm not going to get into any detail than that. Just to say that, I want to hear what you have to say. I want to act on it if I'm lucky enough to be elected. I just want to add that I was raised in Battle Mountain in the desert myself. I love rural Nevada; I am of rural Nevada. The first time I ever lived in a city was when I went to college. Anyway, I'd love to hear anything you might have to say any thoughts or opinions what we need out here in this community, what you're looking for the commissioner. And other than thank you so much for making me feel so welcome.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF [SEPTEMBER 15, 2022](#) (for Possible Action)** – Ms. Evans had a correction to item 6, the Sheriff update, she had said Burning Man had posted something about speeding, not Gerlach.

**MOTION: Schatzi Gambrell moved to approve the minutes of September 15, 2022, as corrected. Andy Moore seconded the motion which carried.**

**5. INTRODUCE NEW ALTERNATE CAB MEMBER, RUSSELL BIERLE** – Tina Walters, Gerlach/Empire CAB Chair welcomed the alternate Russel Bierle.

**6. WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** – General Community Update (non-action item)

Deputy Burns provided an update on speeding. We had a plane crash last week.

Ms. Schatzi inquired about 24/7 service. Deputy Burns said the last he heard, it was leaning towards fall. Mr. Pelt asked about the plane crash in Vya. Deputy Burns said hikers reported it. They wrecked their plane, and our vehicles couldn't access it. It was in the Duck Lake Loop area. They had wrecked it in the mid-80's. There were remains. Deputy Fox and helicopter and detective only found wings and tail numbers. It was never reported. He said we are examining the bones to see if they are animal or human. If it's human, it will be a bigger investigation. Mr. Pelt said they had found parts of a plane that had been missing from 1964.

**7. PAIUTE TRIBE FIRE CHIEF** – Don Pelt, Fire Chief of the Paiute Tribe Fire Department, General Community Update (non-action item)

Ms. Walter presented a proclamation to Chief Pelt. Mr. Pelt said in his 38 years in emergency service; he has never been treated so well.

Mr. Pelt provided an update. He said in addition to the plane crash; we also had an RV fire at the same time that we had multiple explosions, which we believe were LP tanks because the RV was carrying a hot air balloon. The LP tanks in the truck to fuel the hot air balloon. That tank, we've got a crack at Valve and fill the bed with LPs. Fortunately, his wife and daughter were in the cab and were able to get out with no problems. The truck and trailer were a total loss. And then the plane happened to crash like just down from that a few minutes later. That was last Saturday night when I was Friday night when I was here for dinner in the car show and the races. Besides that, we have had numerous increases in medicals. We're getting a lot of folks walking up to the station and getting to know the firefighters, which is great, which is what we anticipated. We did have about eight transports to the hospital this month. And we had about six calls for medical advice. That's where people just want to get checked out. And then Scott mentioned we got the AED quotes and an alarm box mount for them to be mounted in the school. So if somebody opens that, it will send an alarm and flashing strobe lights so that staff knows it's you know, it's been opened. I was in the first volunteer in-person meeting since the pandemic while I was up here Friday. And we brought on a brand-new volunteer. We were starting to recruit. Everybody did a great job of bringing in more people. Cheyanne is the new volunteer. She's going to start her schooling as soon as we can. We're going to be running our first firefighter one class up here. We will probably start in January. We're going to bring it up here to Gerlach. So that class will be taught here at the station, so it's convenient for the community to attend and get their certification. And then also, my understanding is we're going to have a grand reopening of the fire department on December 3 to celebrate with the community and Pyramid Lake working in conjunction with Gerlach. And there will be a spaghetti dinner from 4-7 p.m. at night. So, we're looking forward to that right after the craft fair.

Ms. Schatzi said we would like to get a photo of you and Commissioner Herrmann and other present CAB members that we would like to post on social media at the end of the meeting.

**8. WINTER PREPAREDNESS PANEL** - Learn about how to prepare for winter, including winter emergencies. Hear from Kelly Echeverria, Emergency Manager, Washoe County; Eric Crump, Washoe County Operations Division Director; Chris Smallcomb, Meteorologist in Charge from the National Weather Service on how to be proactive, and what to do when you must be reactive. (non-action item)

Ms. Echeverria answered questions about code red notifications and having a plan for large animal evacuations is important.

Mr. Smallcomb advised how to stay alert to the weather by using apps such as Weather Underground.

Brett Simerly, Operations Superintendent, answered questions. Ms. Gambrell said she is fortunate to live in Gerlach because the snowplows are on-it.

Mr. Nash asked when the roads crew inspects roads after rain. Mr. Simerly spoke about staffing shortages with vacant positions. He said we are proactively looking at our area while using the software to use for scheduling

maintenance. He said we start at 6 a.m. on Highway 447. The public spoke about landslides and dirt clots. He said to be particularly careful around the guardrails during heavy weather events. He spoke about jurisdiction. NDOT handles state Routes. WC is Washoe County. Mr. Pelt asked if they had stopped serving any roads up to Oregon. The superintendent said we do that here. He explained the locations where the roads are maintained regularly during the winter. He advised using highway 447 to access Vya. Ms. Schatzi recommended providing a road map to Mr. Pelt and his team. Brett said he would sit down with Mr. Pelt to review the maps.

A public member asked about the shifts. Mr. Simerly explained their shift schedule and monitored the weather. If there is snow, they will be in no later than 6 p.m. and work til 6-7 p.m. The sheriff's deputy said he had called the roads crew in at 3 a.m. when it was needed. Mr. Simerly said he said they would work together. Mr. Pelt said the tribe doesn't service Surprise Valley Road from Fish Springs from Warrior Point in the winter as far as plowing.

**9. NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB HOW-TO** – Washoe County staff to provide a walk-through of the Neighborhood Development HUB and how to use the platform (non-action item)

Ms. Ramos provided a PowerPoint slideshow of the Neighborhood Development HUB. Mr. Nash said he noticed the virtual meeting. He asked what allows a virtual meeting versus holding the meeting in-person. Ms. Ramos said they try to have meetings as close to the site as possible; however, there are developers from Oregon who may want to hold the meeting virtually. It's encouraged to hold them in person, they are able to hold the virtually. She said there are benefits for virtual meetings.

Ms. Schatzi said it sounds like what we used to do at the CAB. We would pass along our feedback to the planning department. She said great there are virtual meetings but does the community have say about if they want it virtual. Ms. Ramos said anyone and everyone can attend the meetings to express their opinion. The CAB and neighborhood meetings are advisory. The County has zoning that allows for certain projects. We can invite the developers to the CAB. They are required to hold community meetings. Ms. Ramos said these meetings allow for more conversation opportunities since they are restricted to Open Meeting laws.

**10. WASHOE COUNTY COMMISSIONER UPDATE-** Washoe County Commissioner Jeanne Herman may be available to provide updated information on discussions and actions by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) (non-action item)

**11. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS** — This item is limited to announcements and/or requests for future agenda items by CAB members. (non-action item)

Ms. Schatzi requested animal welfare with Washoe County Humane Society. Ms. Ramos said she had not heard back. She will follow up.

Ms. Schatzi requested the flashing crosswalk for the school. Ms. Evans said several County road issues must be addressed. Ms. Ramos said we could invite someone to the November meetings to address the crosswalk and other questions. Ms. Schatzi said she provided copies of how many people are concerned about the crosswalk at the school. Mr. Simerly said engineering is conducting a traffic study. He said it would be a solar-powered pole with buttons and signs. Mr. Nash asked about the traffic levels to trigger the sign. Mr. Simerly said engineering is conducting the study per standard. Ms. Gambrell said we want to know what type of sign will go up. It's about safety for this community.

**12. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT** –

Ms. Ramos thanked the Gerlach Community for their hospitality for hosting the Leadership program last week.

Ms. Evans said she is happy to talk about the Leadership Program. She said we received great presentations and tours.

Ms. Walters spoke about great chili cookoff with money raised.

**ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.