

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

MONDAY

10:45 A.M.

MAY 15, 2006

**SPECIAL MEETING**

PRESENT:

**Bob Larkin, Chairman**  
**Bonnie Weber, Vice Chairman**  
**Jim Galloway, Commissioner**  
**David Humke, Commissioner**  
**Pete Sferrazza, Commissioner \***

**Nancy Parent, Chief Deputy Clerk**  
**Katy Singlaub, County Manager**  
**Melanie Foster, Legal Counsel**

The Board met in special session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerk called the roll and the Board conducted the following business:

**06-507      AGENDA**

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, on motion by Commissioner Humke, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Sferrazza temporarily absent, Chairman Larkin ordered that the agenda for the May 15, 2006 special meeting be approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was no response to the call for public comments.

**06-508      PUBLIC HEARING - ADOPTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2006/07**  
**TENTATIVE AND FINAL BUDGET**

**10:45 a.m.** This was the time set in a Notice of Public Hearing, published in the *Reno Gazette-Journal* on May 5, 2006, to consider the tentative budget for fiscal year 2006/07 as well as possible changes to adoption of the final budget for fiscal year 2006/07.

Chairman Larkin opened the public hearing.

Lisa Gianoli, Budget Manager, recalled that staff has provided details of the proposed 2006/07 budget in several workshops and that each department head presented their budget in a series of meetings during March. She reviewed a PowerPoint presentation, which was placed on file with the Clerk, depicting the highlights of the

proposed budget. Ms. Gianoli noted the economy is strong, which means the County's revenue base has grown; but so have the service demands due to a 3.5 percent population increase. She further stated the recommendations in the budget do meet the priorities established by the Board.

Commissioner Galloway asked about the additional employees and the difference between those in the general fund and those in the special funds. Ms. Gianoli responded the biggest percentage of new employees in the special funds are those in Child Protective Services, which is due to the integration of child welfare services between the State and the County. Another special fund is Water Resources; and the new employees there are a result of the growth, which is paid by the revenue generated by Water Resources. Commissioner Galloway asked that this new employees information be provided with a little more specificity in the future so he can better respond to constituents' questions.

Commissioner Galloway then discussed additional deputies for patrol positions and his concern as to whether or not the levels can be sustained. He said the Sheriff requested six positions and asked how many were granted. Ms. Gianoli stated the bulk of that budget is in staffing the jail expansion and the crime lab. Commissioner Galloway stated additional patrol deputies are needed this year emphasizing that this area is already behind and six deputies are not enough. Ms. Gianoli advised the plan is to add three patrol deputies in January.

Undersheriff Mike Haley reviewed the challenges presented in order to get more deputies on patrol this year, stating if they were hired right now, it would be 46 weeks before they could begin patrolling. He said the key for them is knowing when the detention facility expansion is going to be completed, and it is approximately four months behind right now. The new facility cannot be opened unless it is fully staffed. Undersheriff Haley agreed with the need for more patrol deputies. Commissioner Galloway referenced a report by Assistant Sheriff Lopey detailing the patrol ratios and how they have been dropping for the past few years. He said there is a point where that cannot go any lower; and, with adding three deputies this year and a commitment to continue to increase patrol in the future years, he could support the budget.

Commissioner Humke and Undersheriff Haley then discussed how the detention priorities are driven by Constitutional rights requirements. Undersheriff Haley stated the Washoe County detention facility is a direct supervision facility and, as such, is required to have the proper ratios or face increased liabilities. Commissioner Humke then asked if there are any Constitutional requirements regarding patrol ratios, especially as to the level or amount of resources devoted to patrol. The Undersheriff stated the priorities go to the high mandated functions, and patrol is not a high mandated function. Commissioner Humke said he supported Commissioner Galloway's suggestion.

Commissioner Weber asked about the Sun Valley sidewalks, noting there is nothing in this year's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for that. She said she thought the sidewalks were supposed to be an on-going project. Anna Heenan, Senior Fiscal

Analyst, said Public Works is working with the Regional Transportation Commission to do sidewalks on Fifth Avenue currently; and staff has applied for State grants to acquire funding for these types of projects. Commissioner Weber recalled a joint project with the Sun Valley General Improvement District whereby the GID was going to help with funding and asked how something could be incorporated into this year's budget. She said she wanted to be sure the County continued to work with the GID and make this an on-going project. Tom Gadd, Public Works Director, explained the process for doing new sidewalk projects, noting that it is not really legal for the County to construct new sidewalks. Katy Singlaub, County Manager, stated that sidewalk projects are not typically done with general funds; and Public Works is doing everything possible with available resources. She said staff would prepare a report concerning what has been done in this area and what is planned for the future.

Chairman Larkin noted the cultural/recreational expenditures is expanding more than other expenditures and asked if there are any one-time items included. Ms. Gianoli stated Ballardini Ranch is included in the Parks Construction Fund. Other one-time expenditures were described, such as a downtown parking garage; and Chairman Larkin reiterated the notation that these are the kinds of things that can be done during good economic times.

**11:26 a.m.** Commissioner Sferrazza arrived.

There being no one present wishing to speak, Chairman Larkin closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Galloway moved to approve the budget with the addition that staff will include funding starting in January of next year for three additional deputies for patrol. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weber. Commissioner Humke sought to amend the motion to add \$50,000 to the Court's budget for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) training programs. Commissioner Galloway seconded the amendment, stating the amount did not seem like a budget breaker. Ms. Singlaub advised she believed that could be done and asked staff what is included for CASA. Ms. Gianoli stated the Family Peace Center is funded, but not necessarily CASA. Ms. Singlaub said \$50,000 would not throw the entire budget off. In response to Chairman Larkin, Commissioner Humke said the funds should be used strictly for training the volunteers.

Chairman Larkin called for a vote on the amendment to add \$50,000 to the CASA budget to be used strictly for training with no administrative costs, and the motion to amend the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Sferrazza asked if the request of Commissioner Galloway to cut \$1,000,000 out of the base budget to be set aside for land acquisition was done. Commissioner Galloway responded that, although there was an increase in revenue, he was very concerned about the dependency on property taxes in light of the cap; and in

subsequent discussions with staff, he came to realize that the Sheriff patrols were a higher priority.

Commissioner Weber asked that funds be set aside to complete at least one other sidewalk project in Sun Valley recognizing there are matching funds available. Ms. Singlaub requested staff be given an opportunity to return to the Board with a report on the Sun Valley sidewalk issue. She also said without a specific dollar amount, there would be no way to know what could be done. Ms. Singlaub further advised that sidewalks are usually done via a special assessment district, but if it was the Board's desire and direction, general funds could be taken out of something else and used on this project. Commissioner Weber said she did not want to hold up the entire budget at this time and said it would be all right for staff to come back with a complete report and proposal for continuing the Sun Valley sidewalk project.

Chairman Larkin also requested that the Sheriff's Office take a detailed look at additional officers because the ratio is deteriorating and public safety is a high priority. He then called for the vote on the motion. The motion carried unanimously and it was ordered that the tentative and final fiscal year 2006/07 budgets, as amended, be approved, adopted and duly executed by the Commissioners.

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

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**ROBERT M. LARKIN**, Chairman  
Washoe County Commission

**ATTEST:**

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**AMY HARVEY**, County Clerk  
and Clerk of the Board of  
County Commissioners

*Minutes Prepared by  
Sharon Gotchy  
Deputy County Clerk*