

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

TUESDAY

8:30 A.M.
SPECIAL MEETING

MAY 21, 2012

PRESENT:

Bonnie Weber, Vice Chairperson
John Breternitz, Commissioner
Kitty Jung, Commissioner

Amy Harvey, County Clerk
Katy Simon, County Manager
Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel

ABSENT:

Robert Larkin, Chairman
David Humke, Commissioner

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 8:32 a.m. 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:

12-450 AGENDA ITEM 3 – PUBLIC COMMENT

Agenda Subject: “Public Comment. Comment heard under this item will be limited to two minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the Commission agenda. The Commission will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to two minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the Commission as a whole.”

There was no response to the call for public comment.

12-451 AGENDA ITEM 4 – ANNOUNCEMENTS

Agenda Subject: “Commissioners’/Manager’s Announcements, Requests for Information, Topics for Future Agendas, Statements Relating to Items Not on the Agenda and any ideas and suggestions for greater efficiency, cost effectiveness and innovation in County government. (No discussion among Commissioners will take place on this item.)”

Commissioner Breternitz requested a status report on the Fundamental Review.

Katy Simon, County Manager, indicated that a report was given to the Board during the April 10, 2012 meeting and that another update was scheduled for a July meeting. She stated that the information was also posted on the County's website.

Public Hearings. (Note: The items listed under this heading only will be heard at or after the noted time. In no case will they be heard before the stated time. Due to public testimony and discussion, time expended on the items in this category can vary.)

Tentative Budgets, as well as possible changes to adoption of the Final Budgets, for Fiscal Year 2012/13.

8:38 a.m. The Board convened as the South Truckee Meadows General Improvement District (STMGID) Board of Trustees.

8:40 a.m. The Board adjourned as the STMGID Board of Trustees and convened as the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) Board of Fire Commissioners.

8:49 a.m. The Board adjourned as the SFPD Board of Fire Commissioners and convened as the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Board of Fire Commissioners.

8:53 a.m. The Board adjourned as the (TMFPD) Board of Fire Commissioners and reconvened as the Board of County Commissioners.

12-452 AGENDA ITEM 8

Agenda Subject: "Washoe County – Tentative Budget, as well as possible changes to adoption of the Final Budget, for Fiscal Year 2012/13."

Vice Chairperson Weber opened the public hearing.

Alan Rosen, Budget Manager, conducted a PowerPoint presentation, which was placed on file with the Clerk. The presentation highlighted the budget development, financial and economic trends, deficit reduction plan, Fiscal Year 2012/13 sources and uses, summary of all funds and position adjustments.

Katy Simon, County Manager, said the Consumer Price Index (CPI) had grown by 12 percent and General Fund expenditures had declined by 9 percent, which was a challenge for departments, employees and the budget staff. She highlighted that the Other Post and Employment Benefit Trust (OPEB) annual required contribution would be \$22 million to fully fund the liability. She noted that the County would be placing \$18.7 million into that fund, which was a significant transfer toward long-term liability. Ms. Simon also indicated that the support to the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN) was being increased by \$10,000.

Vice Chairperson Weber questioned if the possibility existed to locate some funds that would allow the Duncan-Traner and Verdi Libraries to remain open. She proposed taking an amount of money from the Library budget to put toward those two branches.

Ms. Simon explained that the decision to pursue the closure of those two branches was a staffing decision and not a financial decision. She cautioned the Board that there would be a total of eight positions affected in the proposed budget for the Libraries. She indicated that the Library Board of Trustees had the authority to make those decisions about operations, staffing and programming. Since there were still labor agreements pending, she was cautious about supplementing that budget by reducing another source because there were still variables in play.

Arnie Maurins, Library Director, reiterated that this decision was not a direct financial decision, but was a consequence of the financial impacts that had affected the library in the past few years, and he was unsure if the 11 branches could still be operated and remain sustainable.

Vice Chairman Weber asked if there was any way for those libraries to remain open. At the moment, Mr. Maurins stated he could not commit to that, but would review the options.

Commissioner Jung inquired on the cost to staff those two libraries. Mr. Maurins explained that those numbers were in the process of being compiled for the Library Board of Trustees. Commissioner Jung commented that the community had voiced their concerns in keeping those resources available. She felt the libraries in the suburbs should be reduced in hours since those citizens had more transportation, because many citizens in Verdi did not have the means to travel to a downtown library. Commissioner Jung suggested fundraisers in those communities to help make this happen. Mr. Maurins remarked that staff had been prioritizing, and he had used the phrase "the greatest good, for the greatest number." He said many more people would be impacted if hours were reduced in a suburban, downtown or urban library. He agreed a fundraiser could help in the short-term, but would not help with long-term sustainability.

Ms. Simon said there were many salary savings throughout a fiscal year and positions may not have to be vacated in the libraries if concessions were reached with the labor groups. She proposed that staff be given direction to work with the Library to see where funding may be provided and not reduce or change the budget at this point, but monitor and recognize the Board's direction. Ms. Simon reiterated that Mr. Maurins could not be directed to staff those libraries. That direction would come from the Library Board of Trustees.

Vice Chairperson Weber requested a joint meeting be scheduled with the Library Board of Trustees.

Mr. Maurins commented that he was fighting for the County as a whole and to serve as many residents as possible in the best way. He requested that the overhead to the Gift Fund in the amount of \$7,300 be removed from the overhead charges since statute declared that Fund could not be expended without Library Board approval.

Ms. Simon explained that diverting money from the Library Expansion Fund to fund the General Fund was prohibited by statute. Mr. Maurins clarified he was speaking about the Library Investment Fund and the \$7,300 from the Gift Fund. Sheri Mendez, Finance Director, explained that statute declared that money could not be reverted from various funds within the County; however, this was not a reversion, it was a charge for services and consistent with what was done with other County funds. She explained the expenditures were not being recorded, just presenting the budget in the Library Gift Fund as well as the General Fund. Before those entries were made to record the expenditures, she said approval would be sought from the Library Board of Trustees.

In response to the call for public comment, Peggy Lear Bowen voiced her concerns over the proposed closure of the Duncan-Traner and Verdi Libraries. She said it was “much cheaper to educate, than incarcerate.”

In the last three years, Commissioner Breternitz said the Board had been focused on sustainability. He said hard decisions were made at every meeting, many of which were not the decisions the Board would prefer to make, but what was in the best interest of the citizens. He stated some decisions could have a negative affect on certain groups; however, the greater good was being sought. Commissioner Breternitz believed that the Library Board had the same charge and had to make the best decisions for the Library System. He said they should be allowed to do their charge and felt they had determined the priorities within the budget. He did not support the idea of modifying the budget as related to the Library.

Vice Chairperson Weber respected the Library Board and their decisions; however, they were not an elected body and felt the Board of County Commissioners had the final responsibility for taxpayer dollars. She indicated that the Verdi Library was also supported by the Washoe County School District and the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) and felt that needed to be taken into consideration.

In response to Commissioner Breternitz, Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel, replied that a Board had a statutory duty to adopt a budget by a certain deadline. Failure to do so would cast the County into the realm of control by the Department of Taxation who would declare a default budget on behalf of the County. Then the Board would need to seek permission from the Department of Taxation if changes were needed. Mr. Lipparelli remarked that a meeting was noticed for May 22, 2012 or another public meeting could be scheduled before June 1, 2012. He said the proposal may trigger a legal problem because the Library Board of Trustees needed to approve expenditures from the Library Fund. He reiterated that the adoption of a budget was not the expenditure, but was the appropriation act and there would be no violation until the expenditure was made absent of the Board of Trustees approval. He stated it may be out of order to propose a

budget that involved the potential of the expenditure of money without the advanced approval of the Board of Trustees. Commissioner Breternitz asked if a successful motion and vote to continue until May 22, 2012 would be legally acceptable. Mr. Lipparelli stated that was correct. He also noted there was a process to augment budgets if needed.

Vice Chairperson Weber did not intend to make a motion for any amount of money, but would like to continue this item until a full Board was present.

Commissioner Jung felt there could be potential problems with the Collective Bargaining Units. She said the Board's intentions were made clear to the Library Director, but it was the Board of Trustees in charge of certain decisions.

Ms. Simon said Vice Chairperson Weber had asked if a source could be found for the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) to potentially hire four more deputies, reducing their vacancies from 28 to 24. She explained that the \$400,000 needed was hard to carve out of anywhere else, but could possibly come from the State settlement for the diverted property tax revenues. However, that revenue would not be available until after the beginning of the new fiscal year and it was uncertain on the actual amount the County would receive. She recommended the Board have on the record that the County would allocate money from that settlement to increase the number of deputies that could be hired, pursuant to the process of augmenting the budget.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Breternitz, which motion duly carried with Chairman Larkin and Commissioner Humke absent, it was ordered that the Washoe County Fiscal Year 2012/13 Budget be adopted.

12-453 AGENDA ITEM 10 – PUBLIC COMMENT

Agenda Subject: "Public Comment. Comment heard under this item will be limited to two minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the Commission agenda. The Commission will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to two minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the Commission as a whole."

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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9:46 a.m. There being no further business to discuss, on motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Breternitz, which motion duly carried with Chairman Larkin and Commissioner Humke absent, the meeting was adjourned.

ROBERT M. LARKIN, Chairman
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

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

*Minutes Prepared by:
Stacy Gonzales, Deputy County Clerk*