

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA

TUESDAY

1:30 P.M.

MAY 26, 2015

CONCURRENT MEETING

PRESENT:

Marsha Berkgigler, Chair
Vaughn Hartung, Commissioner
Jeanne Herman, Commissioner
Bob Lucey, Commissioner

ABSENT:

Kitty Jung, Vice Chair
Nancy Parent, County Clerk
John Slaughter, County Manager
Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 1:38 p.m. with the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District/Sierra Fire Protection District (TMFPD/SFPD) Board of Fire Commissioners and the Reno City Council 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:

Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel, said due to the pending litigation between the City of Reno and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, there should not be any discussion regarding the matters in litigation, which concerned accounting, workers' compensation and performance under the old Interlocal Agreement.

15-0421 AGENDA ITEM 4 – PUBLIC COMMENT

Agenda Subject: "Public Comment. Comment heard under this item will be limited to three minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the Board of County Commissioners agenda. The Board of County Commissioners will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to three minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the Commission, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Commission, Sierra Fire Protection District Commission, and Reno City Council as a whole."

George Newell said he was against any consolidation with the City of Reno due to the Warm Springs area now having a better response time, the service was less costly, and all of the volunteers with the Warm Springs Volunteer Fire Department would be lost. He hoped everything would be kept like it was right now.

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Jerry Gamroth advised the City of Reno submitted an amendment proposal to SB 185, which was never given to the citizens and was a ruse to go forward with consolidation by using regionalization as a buzzword. He said the Interlocal Agreement was unsatisfactory, expensive, and did not provide the best service in spite of previous comments. He stated he was involved in one emergency medical service (EMS) experience under the consolidated operation that was unsatisfactory and a second with the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD), which was an outstanding response. He said the District was an excellent fire-service provider with Advanced Life Support (ALS) paramedics on every engine, and it needed to stay independent with a simple automatic aid agreement. He encouraged the Commission to contact the Assembly Committee indicating it supported SB 185 without any convoluted amendments. He said automatic aid should go forward for the protection of life and property.

Carol Fineberg said she was concerned about the potential consolidation/merger. She stated the TMFPD exemplified due diligence where money, staffing, and the volunteer program were all handled in an appropriate and efficient manner. She said she wished she could say the same for the City of Reno and the Sierra Fire Protection District having four people on every call, more Chiefs than already existed, no volunteers, and mandatory union firefighters, which sounded a lot like what had not worked in the past, and was why there was a TMFPD. She said she hoped for a mutual aid situation where the closest agency would respond to an emergency call and would bill the other agency for the time. She felt that would be fair, equitable and would best serve the people in the City of Reno and the County.

AJ Lyon stated she strongly endorsed what Ms. Fineberg said. She said it was time to use some common sense, and to say the volunteers could not be used lacked common sense.

Cliff Low stated the three Fire Protection Districts in unincorporated Washoe County were each a separate legal entity from the County and were not funded by the County's General Fund. He said the Districts were funded by dedicated revenues to provide emergency services to the geographical areas that paid those taxes. He stated the fact that the Board of Fire Commissioners was made up of the same people as the Board of County Commissioners did not change the fact that the TMFPD was a separate entity. He said he spoke about all of this at a recent Reno City Council meeting and about SB 185, but his comments were ignored. He said the TMFPD was not the County and it was not the County's fire department, but was a Fire District.

Ken Koeppel said he lived long enough to gain knowledge by experience. He stated an attempt to unify the Oakland, California public schools failed. He believed this would also fail because bigger was not always better. He said he was opposed to the City of Reno's amendment.

Robert Parker commented on the City of Reno's proposal for a Regional Fire Protection District and his reasons for being opposed to the proposal. A copy of his comments was placed on file with the Clerk.

Cathy Brandhorst spoke about issues of concern to herself.

15-0422 AGENDA ITEM 5

Agenda Subject: "Overview of current fire department organization, governance, funding and operation: a. Presentation, discussion and potential direction to staff on the City of Reno Fire Department and b. Presentation, discussion and potential direction to staff on the Truckee Meadows/Sierra Fire Protection Districts."

Dave Cochran, Reno Fire Department Interim Chief, conducted a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the Reno Fire Department's response and prevention, organizational structure and governance, organizational chart, staffing - personnel and stations, funding and budget, and the 2014 calls for service. A copy of the presentation was placed on file with the Clerk.

Commissioner Hartung asked how the calls were counted. Interim Chief Cochran said one incident number was assigned to each call regardless of the number of apparatus responding.

Fire Chief Charles Moore stated a lot had been said publically about the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) raising taxes and reducing services, and he hoped to clear the air with some facts regarding the TMFPD's finances. He said when the housing bubble burst in 2007 and there was a substantial decrease in assessed values, local governments had to determine how they would deal with that loss of revenue, which was shown on the District Overview slide. He said there had to be operational adjustments to match service delivery with revenues when 27 percent of the TMFPD's revenues were lost. He stated the TMFPD was unable to reach an agreement with the City of Reno on how to do that, which was why the contract was negated. He said 62 percent of the TMFPD's revenues came from property taxes and 28 percent from the consolidated tax (C-tax). He said no revenues were received from the County or the City of Reno. He discussed the City of Reno wanting to remove the annexation credit, which would add another \$1 million to the loss in revenue for the TMFPD, for a total of \$3 million. He said in 2015-16 the TMFPD revenue was within \$60,000 of the revenues in 2007-08, which he felt did not indicate there was a big tax increase. He said with respect to the loss of service, the District had to have flexible staffing, and the Union worked with the TMFPD to reach an agreement that four firefighters per engine would no longer be required.

Chief Moore stated all of the TMFPD's stations were fully staffed 100 percent of the time, had a projected ending fund balance of 25 percent at the end of 2015-16, all engines had at least one advanced life support (ALS) paramedic and at least three firefighters with a reserve firefighter being added occasionally. He said there were 144

volunteers, the TMFPD had no debt, the Hidden Valley Fire Station was opened, two new stations were constructed to replace old stations, they acquired six new Type 1 structural engines, three type 3 brush engines, a hazardous materials trailer, two water tenders were being purchased, and most of the handheld radio equipment was being replaced. He noted the passage of AB 333 would allow the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) to be dissolved sometime in the next year and the TMFPD would assume the boundaries of the SFPD, so there would only be one taxing district. A copy of the presentation was placed on file with the Clerk

Chief Moore discussed the Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating and the breakdown of calls slides. He noted structure fires made up one-half of 1 percent of the total call volume and less than one-fourth of 1 percent required two in and two out, and he discussed how that was dealt with by using a transitional attack. He provided an example of how the TMFPD was really making a difference in people's lives due to having ALS paramedics. He said the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) was largely concentrated in the core, while the TMFPD was concentrated in the outskirts. He stated sometimes a call from the TMFPD was in a best effort response-time zone for REMSA, which was why the change to a three-person crew with a paramedic was made.

Reno City Councilmember Paul McKenzie said the downturn caused a reduction in assessed property values and would that be returned as assessed values came back. Chief Moore said the tax rate was increased, but it did not increase the net amount of tax revenue but instead reduced the amount of the decline, and on average no one saw an increase on their tax bill. Councilmember McKenzie stated people felt it was a tax rate increase even if the increase offset the decreased values. He asked if the Fire Districts would return as the assessed values returned, so the citizens would not get a tax increase. Chief Moore said that was too far in the future for him to be able to answer the question. He said he did not see giving any of that back because there were other things to do.

Councilmember Brekhus said she had not been aware that the C-tax helped fund the TMFPD/SFPD. She asked if they had taxing authority or did the C-tax money flow through the County and was the C-tax only collected in the unincorporated areas. Vicki Van Buren, TMFPD Chief Fiscal Officer, advised it was distributed through the County and dedicated to the TMFPD/SFPD through the Department of Taxation, but she was not sure about the taxing authority. Robert Chisel, City of Reno Finance and Administration Director, said the portions of the C-tax were collected countywide and others were collected statewide and distributed to the entities identified by the Nevada Legislature. Reno City Councilmember David Bobzien said the formula for how the C-tax was distributed was complicated and it would be almost impossible to isolate it by geography. Reno City Councilmember Naomi Duerr stated Reno residents paid sales tax in the County and a portion of that tax went to the TMFPD. Mr. Chisel replied that was correct.

Councilmember Duerr said she understood going from a four-person to a three-person crew was driven by the budget, but she asked if a four-person crew was the

norm. Chief Moore said with the risks of the high-rise buildings in the downtown urban core, it was appropriate to have four-person crew, but it became less necessary in the outlying areas where most buildings were single-family structures and would not require a ladder truck. He felt the strategy to protect this area should be to use concentric rings with the resources concentrated in the downtown core but, as you moved towards the suburban and rural densities, it would drop to a three-person crew; and on the very rural fringe, volunteers would be used at least as a first response. He said as far as he knew the City of Reno was the only fire department in Northern Nevada that used a four-person crew.

Councilmember Duerr understood the City of Sparks' contract was for a four-person crew, but Sparks went to a three-person crew due to budget cuts. Chief Moore said that was what drove the TMFPD's crew size because, if that had not happened, it would have been necessary to close stations. He said because the TMFPD's stations were more spread out, the Board of Fire Commissioners decided to keep all of the fire stations open. Interim Chief Cochran said the City of Reno had an ISO rating of 2, which was driven by the four-person crew. He stated a four-person crew was the nationally recognized standard, which was a goal and not a requirement. Councilmember Duerr said rather than having a conversation about crew size, she would rather have a conversation about what was the best service to provide to keep people safe.

Reno City Councilmember Oscar Degado asked if Chief Moore supported SB 185. Chief Moore said the Board supported SB 185. Councilmember Degado said the City of Reno was opposed to SB 185 because they felt it was a Band-aid approach, and he was confused because the TMFPD was doing so well and were presenting they did not need the City of Reno's help. He asked if it was felt consolidation or automatic aid would support the TMFPDs overall mission as a Fire District or were we stepping into something we should not. Chief Moore believed automatic aid was what could be done right now to help the citizens. He stated there were places where the TMFPD could help the City of Reno and others where the City of Reno could help the TMFPD.

Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve asked what the District's startup costs were. Chief Moore stated it was documented in the Internal Auditor's report. Interim Chief Cochran stated the budgeted amount was about \$1.2 million, but he was not sure what the final cost was.

Commissioner Lucey noted the 2014 calls for service slide showed Stations 7, 11, and 19 had a significantly smaller number of calls. Interim Chief Cochran said those stations were in an area with a lower call volume, and Station 7 and 19 were browned out a portion of the time.

Commissioner Hartung asked if there were areas in the City of Reno that did not have fire hydrants. Interim Chief Cochran replied there were roughly 10,000 hydrants throughout the City of Reno. Commissioner Hartung asked how an immediate or delayed detection time fit into fighting a fire. Chief Moore said every fire was different, and getting more firefighters on the scene quicker would not always result in

less damage because when the fire was detected was the key. He said detection was the key to getting the fire department on its way and reducing the time between when the fire was detected and when the water was applied. He stated that was a variable, one that the fire departments and governments could not control except through technology. He stated that was why the TMFPD made a very diligent effort to get working smoke detectors into every home, because it was proven that surviving a fire doubled with a working smoke detector. He stated another factor affecting a fire was how many combustibles did a building contain or were accelerants applied. He said if accelerants were involved, the fire would be out of control by the time the firefighters could arrive. He stated more firefighters and a more robust response in every case would not always result in less damage. He advised fire departments could only respond when the fire was detected, and no matter the location, some fires were fully involved on arrival. He said if that was the case, there was not much that could be done except to confine the fire to the structure of origin or, if lucky, to the room of origin.

In response to Mayor Schieve's earlier question, Allison Gordon, Washoe County Internal Auditor, said the transition costs were \$1.4 million, which did not include the station development for Mogul or Hidden Valley. Mayor Schieve noted the amount for building the stations could be significant.

Councilmember Bobzien said the value of today was talking about how we could work together to better to serve everyone. He asked if we could come up with a plan and the funding, would we see some of the stations staffed with four-person crews. Chief Moore said staffing projections would see Sun Valley going to a six-person crew with an engine and a light rescue to handle a lot of Sun Valley's medical calls, which often came in simultaneously. He stated the employees worked hard and deserved higher wages, but the existing costs would go up, which would be very difficult to forecast. He believed the 3 percent increase was not that far off from simple inflation.

Mayor Schieve said we should be looking forward and not backward. She stated yesterday an Assemblywoman said the people did not care about our problems, but only wanted them fixed, and she agreed with that statement. She said this was the time for a positive new start and what had happened was water under the bridge. She stated dispatch needed to be looked at, because five different entities doing dispatch was detrimental to our citizens. She said it did not matter where the firefighters came from if someone had a fire, because it was about saving lives. She commended the Chiefs for doing a great job. Chief Moore said Mayor Schieve was correct with respect to dispatch. He stated having a regional dispatch would go a long ways to getting the fire trucks out the door faster. He felt there were great opportunities for improvement in the dispatch processes.

In response to the call for public comment, Sarah Chvilicek, Blue Ribbon Committee Chair, spoke about the work of the Committee and the Committee's recommendation on putting an automatic aid agreement in place before doing anything else, which would be in the best interests of the citizens. She said to achieve legitimate regionalization of services, there needed to be a fully independent Board with

autonomous authority for regional fire services. She stated there should be a discussion regarding time, costs, and providing an opportunity for flexible spending and staffing across the region. She said all discussions should be transparent.

Sam Dehne spoke about being in favor of the fire merger 15 years ago and against the breakup. He said Chief Moore did a fantastic job in putting together the new District.

Vicky Maltman spoke about the Volunteer Fire Department where she was raised in Pennsylvania that had 350 volunteer firefighters. She said she only had good things to say about the TMFPD and the volunteer fire fighters. She believed public service meant something, and she hoped everyone could come to an agreement that whoever got there first got there first, because the citizens did not care what the name on the responding vehicle was if there was a fire or a medical emergency.

Russell Earle thanked everyone for having a more open mind than they have had in the past. He said he spoke against deconsolidation three years ago. He stated the people were getting service, but there were areas that could be improved for the citizens of both the City of Reno and the County. He said the TMFPD was financially sound, but annexation created a patchwork of service over the years. He said there either needed to be a regional fire service or we needed to work together in a cooperative effort.

There was no action taken on this item.

15-0423 AGENDA ITEM 6

Agenda Subject: “Overview of Automatic Aid: opportunities and challenges: a. Presentation, discussion and potential direction to staff on the City of Reno Fire Department and b. Presentation, discussion and potential direction to staff on the Truckee Meadows/Sierra Fire Protection Districts.”

Dave Cochran, Reno Fire Department Interim Chief, conducted a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the automatic and mutual aid definitions, automatic aid location advantages, and automatic aid opportunities and challenges. He said at the end of the day it was about what was fair and cost effective to both jurisdictions. He stated the challenges were greater than the opportunities, which could be overcome, but as they were overcome the move would be more towards a regional model instead of an automatic aid model. A copy of the presentation was placed on file with the Clerk.

Reno City Councilmember Paul McKenzie said the City of Reno’s engine companies were not set up to fight a fire without a fire hydrant. Interim Chief Cochran said all of the engines carried water just like the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District’s (TMFPDs) engines did. Councilmember Paul McKenzie asked how long a fire could be fought if the area had no hydrant. Interim Chief Cochran replied about five minutes at full volume. He said another engine would be right behind the first with another 750 gallons, but that would be inadequate for a structure that had a major fire. Councilmember McKenzie said if there was a major structure fire, the Chief would have

to send in a water tender to help support the engine. Chief Moore said dispatch notified the responders if there was a hydrant or not, and a water tender would not be sent if there was a hydrant. Councilmember McKenzie asked if the fire was in the County and the City arrived first, who would take command of the scene. Interim Chief Cochran replied the first arriving apparatus would take command, but typically the jurisdiction that owned the fire would ultimately take command. He said that was not spelled out in SB 185.

Councilmember McKenzie asked how often the jurisdictions and the County's volunteers trained together. Interim Chief Cochran replied they currently did not train together nor did the City of Reno train with the volunteers. He said that was one of the safety and cost issues. Councilmember McKenzie stated what he was getting at was the existing language in SB 185 did not give them the opportunity to sit down and resolve those issues, but the proposed amendment by the City of Reno would give us the change to hash those issues out.

Commissioner Hartung asked if any of the City of Reno's fire stations were browned out. Interim Chief Cochran said Stations 7 and 19 were not always open.

Reno City Councilmember Naomi Duerr said Southern Nevada had a unified dispatch and automatic vehicle locators (AVL). She stated she understood Storey County and Washoe County had automatic aid. Interim Chief Cochran said he was not aware of them having an automatic aid agreement, but only the one with the City of Sparks. He stated the City of Reno also had an automatic aid agreement with the City of Sparks. Councilmember Duerr asked if a unified dispatch was needed to have automatic aid. Interim Chief Cochran said unified dispatch was the best practice, but there were workarounds, but a unified dispatch meant the dispatchers operated with a common practice and system and every vehicle position was available by looking at a screen. He said unifying dispatch was being worked on, but he had no idea how long it would take to achieve. He said his hesitation in saying how long it would take was because he was not making the policy and financial decisions needed to get there.

Commissioner Lucey asked if SB 185 went into effect without the amendment, how difficult would it be to enact an automatic aid agreement. Interim Chief Cochran said if both parties came to the table to negotiate in good faith, an agreement could be done in 60 to 90 days. Commissioner Lucey said this meeting was about hashing out those issues and coming to some sort of resolution. He said this would be a step in working towards regionalization, but right now we were just talking about automatic aid.

Commissioner Hartung asked what training standards were used. Chief Moore replied the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) was the standard every fire department used except for California. Commissioner Hartung asked if we had an automatic aid agreement with the City of Sparks. Chief Moore said that was correct and the TMFPD conducted training with the Sparks Fire Department. He stated on a daily basis either the TMFPD was providing fire and/or medical aid to the City of Sparks or vice versa. Commissioner Hartung said he thought Sparks' dispatch was located with the Sparks Police Department. Chief Moore stated that was correct.

Commissioner Hartung said the original agreement with the City of Reno was crafted before any members of this Board and the City Council were elected. He said it was a contractual arrangement and not a consolidation, and it seemed we all wanted the same thing, which was a safe, healthy, and secure community. He stated at the end of the day we needed to come to the table and decide what was best for the community and how agreements could be crafted that would protect the community.

Reno City Councilmember Neoma Jardon said with automatic aid came the frustration of multiple entities sending multiple pieces of equipment in response to a call and not sifting out what the most appropriate response would be and by whom. She asked if a unified dispatch would help get rid of the duplication. Interim Chief Cochran said by definition, automatic aid would result in two apparatus going to every call, which did result in a duplication of services where only one apparatus might be needed. Councilmember Jardon said if mutual aid could be requested prior to actually arriving on the scene, who could make that request. Interim Chief Cochran stated that was identified in the mutual aid agreement. He said there was no fixed formula, but was whatever the jurisdictions agreed to. He said the decision to call for mutual aid could be based on the nature of the call or the location. He stated if it was a structure fire, aid would be needed right away. He said the agreement with the City of Sparks was defined geographically.

Commissioner Lucey asked if SB 185 would negate the City of Reno and the TMFPD from working on solutions. Interim Chief Cochran said the concern was SB 185 only mandated the closest apparatus respond, which would trigger some challenges. He said if the City responded to a call in the County, that area of the City would be left unprotected. He said an agreement could build in a mechanism to provide for that situation but, as written, SB 185 did not provide the ability to negotiate that. Commissioner Lucey asked if there was anything regarding the City of Reno's firefighters union that would inhibit those negotiations if SB 185 was enacted as currently written. Interim Chief Cochran said he did not want to speak for Local Firefighters Union 731, but in his experience they had always been open to discuss any reasonable points.

Chair Berkbigler said she understood if dispatch was regional, the dispatcher would be the person to call out the nearest vehicle. Interim Chief Cochran advised technically the computer would call up the closest vehicle. Chair Berkbigler said the dispatcher would not be calling Reno's backup or the TMFPD's backup if only one engine was needed. She stated she was concerned about the example that automatic aid would result in more vehicles arriving on the scene. She felt automatic aid could not be done unless there was a unified dispatch, so the dispatchers could see what was going on. Interim Chief Cochran said with automatic aid two apparatus would respond, which typically would be needed for a fire but not for an emergency medical call. Chair Berkbigler asked even if dispatch only sent one apparatus. Interim Chief Cochran said that was transitioning into a regional department and not an automatic aid situation, because the jurisdiction having authority always responded. Chair Berkbigler asked if that could be worked into the agreement. Interim Chief Cochran said that would be up to the parties during the negotiations. Chair Berkbigler said she would prefer to have

legislation open enough to allow us to work together to do what would be best for our constituents.

Chief Moore said there had been automatic aid prior to July 1, 2012 between the City of Reno and the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD), which was largely exercised in the Boomtown area. He said often there were medical calls the SFPD station across the street would respond to. He stated the City of Reno was notified but, depending on the nature of the call, they often did not respond. He said prior to the contract with the City of Reno, there had been automatic aid between the TMFPD and the City of Reno, but there was no need to have automatic aid during the time of the contract because the City of Reno was running the service. He believed multiple resources did not need to be sent to an incident when only one was required and the requirement for a two-unit response was embedded in the labor agreements. He said the duplicate responses could be avoided if the labor unions agreed only one engine needed to be sent to a particular call.

Chief Moore said the map, which was placed on file with the Clerk, plotted every structure fire for the City of Reno and the TMFPD in 2013-14. He stated the TMFPD had 260 reports of structure fires, but only one third of the time was there actually a fire. He said 32 of those structure fires were closest to Reno. He stated the City of Reno responded to 643 reports of structure fires and the TMFPD would have been closer for 75 of them. He stated 90 percent of the structure fires were extinguished with the first hose being put on the fire. He said he did not see there would be an onerous burden on either department at least on structure fires. He stated automatic aid was offered to the City of Reno on a trial basis, because there were areas where the City could help us and we could help the City. He stated some homes in Hidden Valley were a hundred feet from the TMFPD's station and the TMFPD needed the City's help in Lemmon Valley. He said if emergency medical services (EMS) was included, there was a lot of good we could do for each other. He said if there was a fire station with a paramedic just a few feet away, not calling them was the wrong thing to do.

Chief Moore said the TMFPD built three fire stations within the last three years. He stated two were located in the County and Mogul, Station 35, was built only a few feet inside the City of Reno, because that location worked for providing the best response times into Verdi and into Caughlin Ranch. He said Station 14 in Damonte Ranch had been there for 30 years and the City built a station only a mile and a half away. He said the station in Stead was within the City of Reno's limits because of annexation, not because the station was built within the City. He stated the TMFPD intended to relocate Station 14 to an area that would better serve the County. He believed there would be some opportunity to look at overlap. He stated Fire Chief Hernandez testified the City of Reno would have to open a station in the south to provide automatic aid to the TMFPD, but the TMFPD had five fire stations south of the McCarran Loop while the City had one. He said the City would not have to go great distances to provide aid to the TMFPD. He stated the complexity of the boundaries was no one's fault but were simply how they had evolved. He felt automatic aid could be achieved quickly, both

in dispatch and reaching an agreement. He said once that was done, the conversation could continue about regionalization, but he believed automatic aid should be done first.

Commissioner Lucey asked Chief Moore the same question he asked of Interim Chief Cochran regarding the labor union. Chief Moore said he could not speak for the union, but he believed the union would be willing to discuss a single-unit response across the jurisdictions without getting anything back, but there could be something in the contract that could prohibit that from going forward. He said the contract did have an exclusive right to serve clause, but he felt that would not be an obstacle. Commissioner Lucey asked if the TMFPD trained with the City of Sparks. Chief Moore replied they did. Commissioner Lucey asked what the City of Sparks' Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating was. Chief Moore believed it was a 2. Commissioner Lucey asked if our ISO rating being a 3 affected training. Chief Moore said ISO was not that relevant to training. He stated ISO recognized that automatic aid agreements were a benefit, so they helped with the audit points with respect to the rating. He said everyone would benefit from having the additional audit points. Commissioner Lucey asked if the District had trained with the City of Reno when there was mutual aid. Chief Moore stated he was only aware of HAZMAT training being done. Commissioner Lucey said Interim Chief Cochran indicated automatic aid would create some challenges for the City of Reno and did Chief Moore see any challenges from his standpoint. Chief Moore said one was technological regarding dispatch, but he felt getting there was very close. He felt they needed to start training together and there had to be conversations regarding what the TMFPD would do when it was first on the scene and what they needed the City of Reno to do for the TMFPD. He said he agreed with Interim Chief Cochran that it would take 90 days to get dispatch up and running and drafting an agreement.

Mayor Schieve asked what the average response time was. Chief Moore replied it depended on the location, because some areas were far away in the rural fringes, but 90 percent of the time the TMFPD's response was within eight minutes. Interim Chief Cochran said the Reno's response time was 5.30 to 5.45 minutes. Mayor Schieve asked how Chief Moore decided when to call for mutual aid. Chief Moore stated a number of factors were used such as the number of 9-1-1 calls received by dispatch and by the caller providing information to the dispatcher about the level of involvement. He said normally four engines were sent to every structure fire and the decision to call for mutual aid could be based on information from dispatch that it was spreading to another house or to the wildlands. He said he believed in the last year the City of Reno had been called for help five times. Mayor Schieve asked what those response times were. Chief Moore replied he did not know. Mayor Schieve said the Hidden Valley response was 28 minutes, and she worried there was a hesitancy to call for help. She said she talked to a couple of the TMFPD's firefighters and they indicated they were told not to call the City of Reno, but to instead call Carson or other areas. She asked if that was true. Chief Moore said he did not believe that was true. He said the City of Reno and the TMFPD had a mutual aid agreement at the time of the Hidden Valley Fire, but mutual aid had to be requested by the command officer on the scene based on Reno's insistence. He said if there was a delay that was part of the reason why. He stated immediate suppression action was taken and the fire was darkened down, but when fire was seen coming out of

the attic, they knew there was a much larger fire. He said the fire was significant because of the delay in the time it took for Mr. West to notice the fire and call for help, which meant the fire had about a 15 minute head start. He said the garage was full of things that could burn, the fire wall between the garage and the attic was removed, and there was additional storage in the attic. When the fire commander saw the fire breached into the attic was when the decision was made to call for mutual aid. He said there was not an intentional decision made by staff to not call for mutual aid because of any possible animosity. He stated he instructed his staff when they needed help, they called for mutual aid. Mayor Schieve said maybe he could clarify that with staff, because they were confused as to what the protocol was. Chief Moore said the *Reno Gazette-Journal (RGJ)* did not report the incident correctly. Mayor Schieve said the City would do whatever we could. Chief Moore replied the District would to the same, because he was very anxious to get to an agreement on automatic aid.

Reno City Councilmember Jenny Brekhuis said the City of Reno's documentation said the request of Chief Officer to Chief Officer was requested by the TMFPD during the drafting of the document. Chief Moore replied that was not correct. She said Chief Moore mentioned the numbers on how often the TMFPD would be coming into the City of Reno regarding fires, but he also talked about cardiac arrests. She said the bill was about fires. She said even though the bill was limited to fires, the bigger vision would be having automatic aid for emergency medical. Chief Moore said there was nothing in the legislation as it was originally drafted that said more could not be done.

Councilmember Brekhuis felt volunteers had no place coming into the City of Reno, and would the bill bring them into the City. Chief Moore said there were volunteers who helped fight the Caughlin Ranch fire. Councilmember Brekhuis said for other than a conflagration, would volunteers be sent into Reno. Chief Moore said that was per the agreement. He explained volunteers were used as a force multiplier and a peak activity unit when there were weather events and to protect the rural fringe. He said there were not many volunteer stations in close proximity to the City's limits. He stated he had no problem with restricting volunteer response into the City, because it would take them 15 to 30 minutes to get to the station to respond.

Councilmember Brekhuis said the second finding on page 1 of the Blue Ribbon report noted there were some fire agencies in the region that were challenged financially regarding sustainability. She felt the report was not talking about the City of Reno, but was it talking about the TMFPD/SPFD, and if so, did the TMFPD need automatic aid to get the job done. Chief Moore believed the report was speaking about the labor agreements largely mandating crew sizes instead of the crew sizes being mandated by the elected officials. He said the Interlocal was negated because the TMFPD could not afford four-person crews throughout the system, but could afford three-person crews. He said when the TMFPD went to a three-person crew, the TMFPD became financially sustainable. Councilmember Brekhuis stated 900 units had a tentative map and would be located just before the turnoff to Washoe Valley. She advised the development could go final any day, and she asked if the TMFPD could serve that development. Chief

Moore replied the TMFPD had five career companies south of the McCarran Loop, and he was confident that development could be served. Councilmember Brekhuis said she was concerned automatic aid would mandate the City of Reno having to service the new growth in the unincorporated County. Chief Moore urged the City Council and the Commissioners to study the locations on the map. He said where Reno's Station 12 could help the TMFPD would be on Geiger Grade. He stated the City would not have to go much further than that because the TMFPD's engines would be closer, but the TMFPD would call for mutual aid if the fire was large enough that the TMFPD could not handle it. He said he would call every fire department in Nevada to put out a fire if he had to, and he was not embarrassed to do that.

Commissioner Hartung thanked the volunteers for doing a phenomenal job, and he did not care if a volunteer or a career firefighter showed up if he was in need.

Councilmember Duerr said dispatch seemed to be the key in getting to automatic aid in an efficient manner. She stated she had not heard from the Reno Fire Department that their vehicles had AVL. Chief Moore said he meant all of the TMFPD's vehicles had them. He felt they were not too expensive to add to a vehicle.

Councilmember Duerr felt the amendment to the bill was needed so we would not get complacent if we achieved automatic aid. She said she would like to see us work together on locating the next fire station to be built, and it might be best to sit together and debate the pros and cons. Chief Moore felt that would be wise. Councilmember Duerr felt together we would be stronger, because there would be more firefighters and apparatus to pull from. She said the amendment to the bill gave some direction to continue meeting, but did not say consolidation, and instead discussed how to better manage our regional fire together. She stated often getting people to work together could reduce overhead. Chief Moore commented a regional department did not always mean less expensive, but it would be more efficient and would serve the citizens better. Councilmember Duerr did not feel we would be reducing the number of trucks or people, but wanted to provide the best service to the people possible.

Reno City Councilmember David Bobzien asked Chief Moore to discuss the automatic aid agreement with the City of Sparks. Chief Moore said he sat down with the Sparks Fire Chief and looked at areas where they could help each other, which was then translated into fire response zones and dispatch processes, while being limited to the areas where it made sense. He said he saw automatic aid with the City of Reno as being in limited areas, because it would be the closest fire truck.

Councilmember Bobzien said he wanted to bring this around to consideration of the amendment, which would send a message to the Legislature we could work together on this. Chair Berkbigler advised the amendment was not on the agenda and the Commission could not take a position on it. She noted the Commission did not have another meeting scheduled until June 9, 2015. Councilmember Bobzien said he understood and noted the City of Reno supported the amendment.

Paul Lipparelli, Washoe County Legal Counsel, confirmed the Board could not take a position as a Board since the amendment was not on the agenda. He said automatic aid was a listed item and there could be a discussion about how it should work from which people might be able to discern the various viewpoints of the Councilmembers and the Commissioners.

Nancy Parent, County Clerk, placed a copy of the City of Reno's proposed amendment on the record.

Councilmember Bobzien encouraged the individual elected officials to express their opinion regarding the amendment to the Legislature as they saw fit.

In response to the call for public comment, Cliff Low said the City of Reno would not pass muster on telling the truth at yesterday's Legislative Session. He said the problem was not that the TMFPD did not renew the Interlocal Agreement, but that the Reno City Council cancelled the automatic aid agreement that predated the Interlocal Agreement. He said the question was how Reno residents would benefit from another Interlocal Agreement or a consolidation with the TMFPD, and would that provide any benefits that would not be provided by simply entering into a well-designed and comprehensive automatic aid agreement.

Tom Garrison, Sparks Fire Chief, said the City of Sparks would be impacted by any decisions made. He stated there were some inaccuracies about automatic aid, which he felt would contaminate the ability to make a well-informed decision. He stated the first was the need for a consolidated dispatch. He said the City of Sparks and the TMFPD did not have a consolidated dispatch now and they were on two separate CAD systems, but they had a wholesome and very workable automatic aid agreement. He confirmed there were delays in dispatching due to them not being on the same system, so phone calls were made and resources were duplicated. However, things were changing because the City of Sparks would be on Tiburon like the City of Reno and the TMFPD, and new procedures could be put into place where each dispatch center could dispatch the other agency's units, which meant it would not be necessary to dispatch two vehicles to an EMS call. He stated it was not necessary to have AVL to do automatic aid, even though AVL was the best possible system, because they already had common radio frequencies. He said most of the agencies operations were similar and they already trained together. He stated all of those things were posed as obstacles to automatic aid, but they were not obstacles. He said the bill did not address negotiating the automatic aid agreement, but it did not prohibit it either. He stated we could design what we wanted and in a very short timeframe, because it took two weeks to design the TMFPD/City of Sparks automatic aid agreement. He said there would be many obstacles to consolidation, such as the governance structure, the staffing models, the differences in the labor agreements, and the funding models. He stated it would take a lot of time to put a consolidated fire department in place, but automatic aid could be put in place within a month. He asked everyone to fully understand what the real and the fake obstacles were before making a decision. He said automatic aid was the right thing to do and was the first step.

Malachy Horan said automatic aid should be the key focus, because it would impact many of the residents of Washoe County. He requested SB 185 be approved without amendments. He said it would take time to do the consolidation, because the water consolidation negotiations took five years between the County and the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA). He stated the City of Reno's and the TMFPD's funding sources were different and the City of Reno had significant unfunded liabilities. He said he would like to see the City of Reno have the cash in the bank to pay for those unfunded liabilities instead of someone who had no dealings on the issue having to pay for them. He said out of a \$70 million budget, the total savings would be \$320,000 if the merger happened. He stated he would not do a merger if that was the total savings that could be realized and, if the savings could not be found now, the savings would never be found in the future.

4:35 p.m. Chair Berkbigler left the meeting and Acting Chair Hartung assumed the gavel.

Sam Dehne said he was against the deconsolidation, but bringing in Chief Moore was one of the best things that happened. He stated the closest unit needed to go to the fire.

There was no action taken on this item.

15-0424 **AGENDA ITEM 7**

Agenda Subject: "Overview of Regional Fire Services: a. Presentation, discussion and potential direction to staff on the City of Reno Fire Department proposal for fire consolidation and b. Presentation, discussion and potential direction to staff on the Truckee Meadows/Sierra Fire Protection District proposal for fire consolidation, including but not limited to, an overview of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Regional Fire, 2014 -- Truckee Meadows-Sierra Fire Protection Districts/Washoe County, prepared by Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI)."

Dave Cochran, Reno Fire Department Interim Chief, conducted a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the regional fire service delivery enhancements, the proposed regional staffing model, the current regional redundant service areas, and the proposed regional fire model cost.

4:45 p.m. Chair Berkbigler returned and assumed the gavel.

Interim Chief Cochran continued the presentation by highlighting the fire regionalization formation options and the governance and administration model. He said regionalization would result in a higher and more efficient level of service at no additional cost and with no loss of jobs. A copy of the presentation was placed on file with the Clerk.

Chief Moore said ordinary citizens spent a considerable amount of time studying regionalization over six months from an unbiased and local perspective. He stated they brought in the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA), the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District (NLTFPD), and all of the regional fire departments including Storey County and North Lyon. He stated the study concluded the first step should be automatic aid. He said there were formidable obstacles to get to the point where we could be fully regionalized. He stated some of the obstacles were imbedded in service levels and they were certainly the issues of governance, funding, and labor.

Commissioner Hartung asked Interim Chief Cochran about listing the 2015-16 Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) budget as \$26,211,121, and he thought the budget as \$23.3 million. Michele Hobbs, Reno Fire Department Administrative Services Manager, said according to the TMFPD's State document, the budget was \$23.3 million. She said part of the costs included in looking at a regional model were the indirect costs for Human Resources, the District Attorney's Office, and so on for both the City of Reno and the TMFPD. She said to be self-sufficient, the Department would need to have legal services, personnel services, and all of the other costs required to be a self-supporting entity.

Reno City Councilmember Jenny Brekhus believed the consolidation of the fire services was not the answer, because it would lead to more fragmentation and uncoordinated governance for this region. She felt the City of Reno and the County needed to figure out what to do with the City of Sparks and Incline Village, so there would be one legislative body, which would provide the best results and was what the region deserved.

Commissioner Lucey asked what prompted the study besides the deconsolidation. Chief Moore said one of the most glaring issues was how many separate fire agencies the region had, because they were not necessarily coordinating their efforts. He stated doing a good job with fire response was not enough, because we also needed to do a good job with fire prevention and community outreach. He said it was obvious there were many agencies doing the same thing that there was duplication and overlap occurring.

Commissioner Lucey discussed the automatic aid advisory question on the ballot in 2012, which had a yes vote of 81 percent and 18 percent no. He asked if that ballot question was also part of this. Chief Moore said during the study everything was discussed and put in the proper order regarding the sequence of things that needed to happen to get from where we were at to what might be the ideal state of a regional department with one form of governance, an agreed upon service level, and a stable and fair funding source. He said they got to automatic aid first, because it would be a good first step and, when that was successful, then we could move on to the more difficult tasks.

Commissioner Lucey asked why the City of Reno did not participate in the Blue Ribbon Committee. Andrew Clinger, Reno City Manager, said the County was making the selections regarding who would be on the committee and if the City had been invited to participate in making those selections, the City would have been more than willing to participate. Commissioner Lucey asked if there was a study that both the County and the City of Reno participated in.

4:50 p.m. Chair Berkbigler left and Acting Chair Hartung assumed the gavel.

Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve said the City of Reno had a box full of studies, and that her issue was how many more studies needed to be done. Interim Chief Cochran stated the studies all concluded that a regional fire department was the best answer.

Reno City Councilmember Naomi Duerr said there was a study done during the consolidation that said it was working well. She stated it was hard to solve a problem if there was no understanding of what the problem was. Interim Chief Cochran said the consolidation seemed to work well. He said in response to the question if we could get there, his response was of course we could because we had been there already. Chief Moore responded finances were 99 percent of why the Interlocal could not be sustained. Councilmember Duerr said she was trying to understand the obstacle to consolidation. Chief Moore said the biggest obstacle was the cost of staffing. He stated if the TMFPD had not gone to flexible staffing, the projections were the TMFPD would be insolvent by this year. He said the flexible staffing enabled the TMFPD to keep all of the fire stations open; otherwise, three stations would have been closed, which would have been an issue because the stations in the north were located further apart. Councilmember Duerr asked if increasing revenues would provide an opportunity to provide a better level of service. Chief Moore said the District was working great with three-person crews, but he would like to have more firefighters. He stated he had to balance revenues and expenditures against the service levels, and it would cost 33 percent more to staff with four-person crews, which was money the TMFPD did not have.

Acting Chair Hartung said the thought process being put forward was a good one, but the process had to include the City of Sparks, the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District and the Reno-Tahoe Airport. He stated when businesses merged, a valuation had to be determined, which required each business to look at the valuation of the other business. He said all of the books must be open and examined by a third-party auditor. He said all of the variables needed to be known or it would be impossible to merge the entities, because there could be huge inequities on both sides. He stated he had no issue with regionalizing a lot of our resources, but what got in the way were people wanting to be in control. He said the question was could we get along. He stated if we could demonstrate we could work together, then everyone would want to climb on board with regionalization.

5:10 p.m. Chair Berkbigler returned and assumed the gavel.

In response to the call for public comment, Robert Parker spoke about the Reno Fire Department and the proposed consolidation. A copy of his comments was placed on file with the Clerk.

Cliff Low felt automatic aid was the answer and, if the automatic aid agreement was still in force, we would not be here today. He stated the City of Reno felt automatic aid meant their vehicles would be out of position, but he asked what was done now when multiple pieces of equipment were out dealing with an emergency. He believed the equipment was repositioned as needed to provide the best coverage possible.

Larry Simcoe said he agreed with Commissioner Hartung that everyone needed to talk to each other. He stated he worked for a fire department that started regionalizing in 1955 and resulted in a majority of the cities being under one umbrella. He said that was how to eliminate the duplication of services. He felt what was missing was the ability to communicate.

Cathy Brandhorst discussed issues of concern to herself.

There was no action taken on this item.

15-0425 AGENDA ITEM 8

Agenda Subject: "Discussion and potential direction by each governing board to its respective staff on possible dates and items for agendas for future Concurrent meetings relating to fire services."

The City of Reno made and approved a motion to direct staff to work on an automatic aid agreement that would define the areas of coverage, cost reimbursements, dispatch, and building the fire stations. Also, Mayor Shieve and Chair Berkbigler would get together and define the timelines to get everything accomplished.

Reno City Councilmember Neoma Jardon requested staff obtain the automatic aid agreement, financial statistics, and feedback on how the agreement worked with the City of Sparks.

Reno City Councilmember Oscar Degado said we should continue the discussion on consolidation along with the discussions on automatic aid. Andrew Clinger, Reno City Manager, said there should be direction to staff to work with the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) on the financial models and staffing levels. Councilmember Degado said that would require a second motion. Mr. Clinger said this item was set up for the Council and the Commission to set future dates for meeting on this issue.

The City of Reno made and approved a motion to direct staff to continue to work with Washoe County regarding the financial models and staffing levels for the regional model.

Mr. Clinger said if the next meeting was in a month, staff could come back with more meaningful information. Mayor Schieve said a lot of the work was already done, and the City's fire experts believed they could put everything together relatively quickly.

The City of Reno made and approved a motion to hold the next concurrent meeting on Monday, June 15, 2015 in the afternoon.

For the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District/Sierra Fire Protection District Board of Fire Commissioners and the Board of County Commissioners, on motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that staff be authorized to meet with the staff from the City of Reno to outline the process of automatic aid and the timeline to implement it.

In response to the call for public comment, Cliff Low asked if the City of Reno should consider taking a new position on SB 185 based on their motion to enter into discussions regarding automatic aid.

Commissioner Hartung asked if the meeting on June 15th would be about the progress made on automatic aid or regionalization. Mr. Clinger replied it depended on the County's position because he heard a motion regarding automatic aid, but had not heard a motion to explore the viability of the financial and operational standpoint on regionalization. He said that could be a second item on the agenda if the County made that motion.

Commissioner Hartung felt that when having a discussion about true regionalization, we should at least invite all of our regional partners to get their feedback. He said he would like to have staff collectively have conversations about what regionalization could look like.

Councilmember Jardon said she would hate to have the talks about regionalization bogged down due to others not wanting to participate. She felt we should represent to them that we would work together, and they would hopefully choose to join us. Chair Berkbigler believed the motion was for the different staffs to get together to do what was just suggested. She felt an appropriate motion for the Commission would be to direct staff to discuss the issues around a regional fire department. Mr. Clinger said the direction he heard was to meet with TMFPD staff and the County Manager to dive into details of the model the City of Reno proposed and to work through any questions or issues. He felt that work should be done first and then the regional partners could be invited to the discussion. Paul Lipparelli, Washoe County Legal Counsel, said the County needed a motion on regionalization, because the first motion only covered automatic aid. He stated Reno's motion proposed using their proposal for the basis of the discussion, and the Commission might want to consider adding the recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Committee, so all of the options could be discussed.

For the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District/Sierra Fire Protection District Board of Fire Commissioners and the Board of County Commissioners, on motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Chair Berkgigler, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that staff enter into a discussion to look at perimeters for a merger that could look like regionalization and include the Blue Ribbon study and information supplied by Chief Moore in the conversation.

Commissioner Hartung asked if June 15th would be too soon for staff to deal with regionalization, because there was a lot of information to sift through. Commissioner Lucey asked if the motion could be vague enough to allow having a concurrent meeting with the City of Reno regarding fire services in general. Mr. Lipparelli said this agenda item allowed giving direction on future dates for meetings. He felt the Board would not want to depart from the usual process for formulating agendas for concurrent meetings, and the direction to staff would be to follow that process to formulate the June 15, 2015 agenda.

For the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District/Sierra Fire Protection District Board of Fire Commissioners and the Board of County Commissioners, Commissioner Hartung made a motion that ordered there would be a concurrent meeting on June 15, 2015 to discuss automatic aid and to have staff and the two Managers work together with respect to future dates for additional conversations. Mr. Lipparelli said that would not authorize discussing any other subject. Chair Berkgigler asked if the maker of the motion would be willing to amend the motion to say automatic aid and other fire services. Commissioner Hartung amended the motion. Chair Berkgigler seconded the amended motion, which duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent.

Councilmember Duen complimented the County on its willingness to meet on these topics.

For the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District/Sierra Fire Protection District Board of Fire Commissioners and the Board of County Commissioners, on motion by Chair Berkgigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, staff was ordered to include dispatch issues as they related to fire services in the discussions.

15-0426 **AGENDA ITEM 9**

Agenda Subject: “Public Comment. Comment heard under this item will be limited to three minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the Board of County Commissioners agenda. The Board of County Commissioners will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to three minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the Commission, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Commission, Sierra Fire Protection District Commission, and Reno City Council as a whole.”

Deborah Sheltra stated she would like to see the Commissioners oppose the City of Reno's proposed amendment, because it would gut the intent of SB 185. She spoke about the City of Reno not participating in the Blue Ribbon Task Force, the tax increase, and the City of Reno's lack of advanced live support (ALS).

Cathy Brandhorst spoke about issues of concern to herself.

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5:58 p.m. There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, the meeting was adjourned.

MARSHA BERKBIGLER, Chair
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

NANCY PARENT, County Clerk and
Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

*Minutes Prepared by:
Jan Frazzetta, Deputy County Clerk*

Pending Board Approval

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

JUNE 9, 2015

PRESENT:

Marsha Berkgigler, Chair
Kitty Jung, Vice Chair (Via Telephone)*
Vaughn Hartung, Commissioner
Jeanne Herman, Commissioner
Bob Lucey, Commissioner

Nancy Parent, County Clerk
Kevin Schiller, Assistant County Manager
Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:00 a.m. in regular 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:

15-0429 AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment. Comment heard under this item will be limited to three 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 three minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the Commission as a whole.

Carol Burns stated she was a Sun Valley resident and that she understood there were costs to having a Citizens Advisory Board (CAB). She felt the County realized sufficient savings that could be put towards the CAB since Sun Valley Parks were now being managed by the Sun Valley Water District. She thought the reason residents were not coming to the Board meetings to demand a CAB was because many of them were elderly or ill. She was told the Board already made the choice not to support a Sun Valley CAB and she asked them to reevaluate that decision.

Tim Stoffel, Sierra Safari Zoo, said he discovered all the information that was on file at the State Legislature was submitted by animal rights people. He claimed less than 1 percent of the United States Humane Society's money was utilized for actual animal issues. He thought they were out to attack animal owners because they wanted animals to have the same rights as people, which meant they were trying to prevent people from having pets, eating meat, wearing fur, hunting, and conducting animal shows and zoos. He thought everyone should be concerned with animal welfare, but he thought the Board had a duty to review animal laws to determine whether they were doing any

good or were meant to harass animal owners. He urged the Board to work toward creating fair and balanced laws to protect both animals and the people who owned them.

John Howitt spoke about the Board's duty to select a member of the Reno Tahoe Airport Authority Board of Trustees. He said that would be one of the most important selections the Board would make because the Trustee would be responsible for passing a \$50 million budget, overseeing \$1 billion in community assets, and for determining policy that would affect community health, safety, and welfare. He stated the selection must be based on qualifications and experience rather than political or social connections. He said Dr. Robert Larkin was the most qualified and experienced person and had been instrumental in establishing strategic priorities, fostering an open and transparent form of government, paying down debt, and increasing airport capital reserves. He said good government did not just happen; it started with the selection of the most qualified candidate with a proven track record of success.

Jeff Church said he owned property in the unincorporated County and ran a web site about public safety. He noted there would be a meeting between the County, the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD), and the City of Reno on June 15th at 1:30 p.m. He said the location of the meeting should be moved from Reno City Hall to the Commission Chambers because he thought the City's facilities were too small. He said he had a number of concerns about the audit report regarding the Forensics Lab/Dispatch Agreement between the County and the City of Reno and he felt Reno should pay their fair share just like Sparks did. He said Reno was biting the hand that fed them by suing the TMFPD and the County over fire services. He reviewed some minutes from past Board meetings wherein the Forensics Agreement was discussed and stated the issue still needed to be resolved.

Sam Dehne spoke about his attendance at local government meetings, the merger of the Fire Districts, and the Reno Tahoe Airport Authority Board of Trustees.

Janice Flanagan spoke about Agenda Item 31 regarding billboards. She asked the Board to direct staff not to change Code provisions for signs because she thought they would contradict the will of the voters to prohibit the expansion of billboards. She said she understood businesses needed to advertise, but she thought the billboards would have a negative impact on the community.

John Potash, Get Rattled, came before the Board to talk about the proposed changes to Chapter 55 of the County Code. He said on one hand there was an extreme group of people whose arguments were based on idealistic beliefs rather than hard facts; and on the other hand there were people who cared for and worked with animals every day who found it difficult to take time away from their busy lives to defend their pets, businesses, and livelihoods. He stated most of the proposed changes were suggested by animal rights groups and common sense would dictate that any governmental agency should seek the counsel of experienced experts before creating any new laws. He recommended the Board consider dismissing the proposed changes and create an interactive workshop. He urged the Board to listen to the advice of true animal

experts to create an educated Code that would allow Animal Services to do their jobs and also allow people to pursue their freedoms.

15-0430 **AGENDA ITEM 4** Commissioners'/Manager's announcements, reports/updates from County Commission members concerning various boards/commissions they may be a member of or liaison to. Requests for information, topics for future agendas and any ideas and suggestions for greater efficiency, cost effectiveness and innovation in County government.

Kevin Schiller, Assistant County Manager, stated the agenda item regarding the appointment of a Reno Tahoe Airport Authority Board member was scheduled to be heard at 11:00 a.m. and the agenda item regarding the appointment of a Social Services Director would be heard at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Schiller read a letter, which was addressed to County Manager John Slaughter, in regards to Animal Services Officer Oscar Tejeta. The letter stated Officer Tejeta was observed handling a situation involving a neighborhood dispute with professionalism, confidence, and compassion. The letter writer was impressed with Officer Tejeta's judgement as he utilized options to ensure the safety of the neighborhood.

Mr. Schiller also read a letter regarding County Clerk employees Roxana Miller and Cathy Smith. The letter writer was grateful for the help she received to become certified to conduct the marriage ceremony for her son and his bride. She wrote that it made her dream a reality.

Commissioner Herman asked for an agenda item to discuss the possibility of increasing the Park Department's budget. She also asked for an agenda item to discuss the American Lands Council membership. She said she wanted a report on how the County was doing in regards to Revised Statute 2477 (RS 2477) Roads to determine if things were up to date and deadlines had been met. She thanked everyone who helped to improve the Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) program.

Commissioner Hartung reported the 10th anniversary celebration of the Spanish Springs Library took place on May 31st and there was a great turnout. He said Chair Berkbigler was honored as a Woman of Achievement on May 28th. He commended her for all the hard work she did for the community and thanked her for being a great leader. He stated he and Mr. Schiller would be reviewing the way kids were brought into the Kids Cottage facility to try to reduce issues with bed bugs and lice. He thought a few simple changes could save the County a lot of money. He looked forward to coming back to the Board with an update about it.

Commissioner Lucey stated he attended the grand opening of Grand Rounds which was a medical facility that allowed health care professionals to connect with individuals all over the world. He said the new distribution facility currently

employed 30 people and there were plans to increase that number to 200 in the next six months. He thought it was fantastic for the community and a big win for the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN). He stated he and Commissioner Hartung attended the unveiling of a new traffic signal on North Virginia Street in front of the Bonanza Casino and he thought it was a huge step in the right direction in regards to traffic and pedestrian safety. He said this one traffic signal would not be the answer to all the problems in the region, but the County and the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) was committed to continuing the effort to ensure pedestrian safety was a primary focus. He was honored to attend the opening ceremony of the Northern Nevada Special Olympic Summer Games (Games) where he read a Proclamation declaring June 5th and 6th as Northern Nevada Special Olympics Summer Games Day. He said athletes came from all over the State to participate in the Games, which were held at the University of Nevada, Reno. He said a group of citizens got together to form an organization called Reno Ice and they were proposing to install an ice skating rink next to the South Valleys Sports Complex. He explained the group raised money through private donations to help better the community, which he thought was phenomenal. He stated he would be holding a District Forum to discuss the Medical Marijuana Establishment (MME) dispensaries, specifically regarding the locations on Mount Rose Highway and Thomas Creek Road. He said due to an overwhelming response, the Forum would be held at the Galena High School theatre to ensure everyone's voice would be heard.

Chair Berkbigler introduced Deputy Bill Daniel and Deputy Suzanne Fisher from the Sheriff's Office. She also introduced their police dogs, which she said provided a wonderful service to the County. Chair Berkbigler asked Deputy Daniel to talk a little bit about the dogs. Deputy Daniel stated there were nine police dogs in the Sheriff's Office and he described the type of work they did. He said they looked for dogs that were driven to hunt and had good social skills. He explained the police dog program was completely self-funded through grants and donors.

Chair Berkbigler said she was curious about the Sun Valley Parks and she wanted to know if the County gave the parks to the Sun Valley General Improvement District (SVGID). She stated the Board had approved It's My Community Store as a supplier to the County and she wanted a report to explain why the supplier was not necessarily being utilized.

Commissioner Hartung thought Jeff Church brought up a salient point during public comment. He said the suggestion to move the June 15th meeting to the Commission Chambers was a good idea because it was larger and the parking was easier to deal with. He asked staff to try to work with the Reno City Council to relocate the meeting.

Commissioner Lucey stated his District was looking for a new appointment to the Planning Commission and he urged citizens who wanted to be involved to contact their Commissioners to apply for a seat. Chair Berkbigler stated she also had an opening in her District.

CONSENT ITEMS 5A THROUGH 5J2

- 15-0431** **5A** Approve minutes for the regular Board of County Commission meeting of April 14, 2015 and April 21, 2015.
- 15-0432** **5B** Acknowledge receipt of annual report of projected expenditures for the Account for the Acquisition and Improvement of Technology in the Office of the County Assessor for FY 2015/2016.
- 15-0433** **5C** Approve the creation of an intermittent hourly Public Service Intern position for the Comptroller's Department, not to exceed the maximum annual cost of \$14,027.
- 15-0434** **5D** Approve the conversion of the Guardian Case Manager job classification, pay grade L, to a flexibly staffed series consisting of a Guardian Case Manager II, pay grade L, a Guardian Case Manager I, pay grade K, and a Guardian Case Manager Trainee, pay grade I (Public Guardian) as evaluated by the Job Evaluation Committee, and elimination of unused or obsolete job classifications as listed in Exhibit 1. There is no fiscal impact associated with these actions.
- 15-0435** **5E** Approve recommendations for Commission District Special Fund grants for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 for Commission District 4 and District 5 in a [total amount of \$26,244; \$13,122 per District]; District 4 Commissioner Vaughn Hartung recommends [\$13,122] grant to Washoe County Senior Center to support and enhance the programs and activities offered at the Senior Center in Sparks; District 5 Commissioner Jeanne Herman recommends [\$13,122] grant to Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District in support of renovations and improvements to the Palomino Valley Fire Station 229 Auxiliary; approve Resolutions necessary for same, and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget adjustments.
- Commissioner Hartung said he wanted everyone to know how he and Commissioner Herman were spending their discretionary funds. He stated Commissioner Herman's funds were going to the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) in support of renovations and improvements at the Palomino Valley Fire Station and his were going to the Senior Center in Sparks for some of their needs, including a new Bingo board.
- 15-0436** **5F** Accept grant award from the Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division for the following Older Americans Act Title III Programs: Nutrition Services Incentive Program [\$109,985 no match required] retroactive from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015; and direct Comptroller to make the appropriate budget adjustments.

15-0437 **5G1** Approve re-appointment of Sarah Chvilicek to the Washoe County Planning Commission, on the recommendation of the Washoe County Commission Chair, to represent Commission District 5 on the Planning Commission for a term beginning on July 1, 2015, and ending on June 30, 2019, or until such time as a successor is appointed.

15-0438 **5G2** Appoint Sarah Chvilicek to the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Commission for an unexpired term beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2017, or until such time as a successor is appointed; and re-appoint James Barnes to the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Commission for a term beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2018, or until such time as a successor is appointed.

15-0439 **5G3** Accept a donation from the Greater Reno Community Ice Skating Association [\$40,000] to fund an update to the South Valleys Regional Park Master Plan; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the appropriate budget adjustments.

Chair Berkbigler acknowledged and thanked Joel Grace, Greater Reno Community Ice Skating Association, for the donation.

In response to the call for public comment, Steve Ulrich urged the Board to accept the donation and to lend their full support to the building of the ice skating facility. He said it would encourage both youth and adult participation in ice hockey and figure skating programs; and would have a positive financial impact on the region.

Mr. Grace thanked the Board for their participation. He said this was the culmination of 18 months of hard work by the Board and the donation would allow them to get started on the Master Plan so the project could get underway. He was very excited about the project.

15-0440 **5H1** Approve payments totaling [\$8,944] to vendors for assistance of 54 victims of sexual assault and authorize Comptroller to process same. NRS 217.210 requires payment by the County of total initial medical care of victims, regardless of cost, and of follow-up treatment costs of up to \$1,000 for victims, victim's spouses and other eligible persons.

15-0441 **5H2** Approve Interlocal Agreement between the County of Washoe, on behalf of its Northern Nevada Child Abuse Response & Evaluations/Sexual Assault Response Team, and the County of Placer, California, for the Washoe County Child Abuse Response and Evaluation and Sexual Assault Response Team (CARES/SART) to provide emergency sexual assault examinations to Placer County victims of sexual assault from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017.

- 15-0442** 5H3 Approve supplemental funding from the US Department of Justice, United States Attorney, Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) for reimbursement of overtime costs incurred while involved in the investigation of OCDETF Initiative number PA-NV-0266. Supplemental funding not to exceed [\$5,000.00] no match required, retroactive for fiscal year 2014-2015. Direct the Comptroller to make the necessary budget adjustments.
- 15-0443** 5I1 Approve Fiscal Year 2015 Local Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) award funds, sub granted through Reno Police Department, [\$41,792.40, no County match required] for purchase of Law Enforcement equipment, Law Enforcement related training and travel, and overtime and approve updated Interlocal Agreement between the City of Reno, on behalf of the Reno Police Department, and Washoe County, on behalf of the Washoe County Sheriff's Office for the management and disposition of the 2015 Justice Assistance (JAG) Program Award; and direct Comptroller's Office to make appropriate budget adjustments. Retroactive grant period is 10/1/14 through 9/30/18.
- 15-0444** 5I2 Approve Sheriff's Security Agreement between the Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority and the Washoe County Sheriff's Office to provide traffic control assistance for the AMGEN Pro Women's Bicycle Race [costs to be reimbursed by LAVA] and other various functions, for the retroactive period of May 8, 2015 through December 31, 2017 within Incline Village, Washoe County, Nevada.
- 15-0445** 5I3 Approve and award proposal # QUO003379/7 to Hamilton Robotics for the partially grant-funded purchase of a Hamilton easyPunch STARlet system, including a 1 year extended warranty, for DNA testing for [IO 11103: \$74,477.60 & IO 20391: \$2,360.88 for a net total of \$76,838.48] to be used by the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division and if approved, authorize Purchasing to make the purchase and direct Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget adjustments.
- 15-0446** 5J1 Approve and execute Resolution directing County Treasurer to give notice of the sale of properties subject to the lien of a delinquent special assessment in the following districts: WCAD 21 – Cold Springs Sewer, WCAD 29 – Mt. Rose Sewer Phase 1, WCAD 32 – Spanish Springs Valley Ranch Rd, WCAD 35 – Rhodes Road, WCAD 37 – Spanish Springs Sewer Phase 1A, WCAD 39 – Lightning W Water System Supply Improvement, (additional description of affected parcels contained in exhibit A of attached Resolution).
- 15-0447** 5J2 Approve to establish two, two hundred dollar (\$200) change funds, for a [total of four hundred dollars \$400], to enable the Washoe County Alternative Sentencing to accept cash payments from probationers for

probation supervision, lab fees and other specialty court fees at two locations, 1 South Sierra Street, Reno and Sparks Justice Court, Sparks; and, if approved, authorize the Chairman to execute Resolution for same.

There was no public comment on the Consent Agenda Items listed above.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Items 5A through 5J2 be approved and authorized. Any and all Resolutions or Interlocal Agreements pertinent to Consent Agenda Items 5A through 5J2 are attached hereto and made part of the minutes thereof.

BLOCK VOTE – AGENDA ITEMS 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, AND 26

15-0448 **AGENDA ITEM 7** Recommendation to approve Resolution to augment the Health Benefits Fund to increase expenditure authority in the amount of \$1,600,000 for fiscal year 2014-15.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7 be approved. The Resolution for same is attached hereto and made a part of the record thereof.

15-0449 **AGENDA ITEM 8** Request by the Washoe County District Attorney through the Washoe County Clerk pursuant to Washoe County Code 2.030 to direct the Clerk to submit to the District Attorney requests for preparation of proposed ordinances which are made necessary by new or amended laws from the 78th Nevada Legislature (2015).

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 8 be directed.

15-0450 **AGENDA ITEM 9** Recommendation to approve receipt of a direct grant award [\$151,608, no County match required] from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), FY2014, Project number 2014-AP-BX-0825, to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Detention Bureau. Beginning date of the grant term is retroactive to October 1, 2014, with no end date. If approved, direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget adjustments.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 9 be approved and directed.

15-0451 **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation to approve the Contract for Health Care Services for the Washoe County Detention Facility between Washoe County and NaphCare, Inc. for Detention Inmate Medical Services for the period of June 10, 2015 through May 31, 2017 with the option to renew the contract for two (2) additional one-year periods in the amount of [\$5,762,317.01 for year 1, \$5,862,317 for year 2; optional \$6,061,635.78 for year 3; & \$6,267,731.39 for year 4] based on an average daily population (ADP) of 1200 inmates; or authorize an interim agreement with NaphCare, Inc. until a new RFP can be released.

Chair Berkbigler wondered if NaphCare, Inc. was a new vendor or if the County had used them in the past. Captain Heidi Howe, Sheriff's Office, stated the vendor had not been used in the County before, but was currently serving Clark County.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be approved.

15-0452 **AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommendation to approve the 2016 Interlocal Agreement to Use Account for Low-Income Housing Welfare Set-Aside Funds by Washoe County between Washoe County and the Nevada Housing Division of the Department of Business and Industry of the State of Nevada in the amount of [\$162,015; no match required] to provide emergency housing assistance effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018, and direct the Comptroller's Office to make necessary budget adjustments.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 11 be approved and directed. The Interlocal Agreement for same is attached hereto and made a part of the record thereof.

15-0453 **AGENDA ITEM 12** Recommendation to approve Fiscal Year 2015/2016 renewal of contracts and service agreements above \$100,000 to be approved as a group by the Board of County Commissioners and authorization for the Purchasing Contracts Manager to sign the contract

renewals, as they come due, with approval from the District Attorney or Risk Management when necessary as follows: General Fund - Thomson Reuters, not to exceed [\$300,000] - Software Maintenance Agreement for the Treasurer's Tax System and the Assessor's Personal Property Data Basic Support. SAP, Renewal of SAP Financial Software System Software Maintenance Agreement, not to exceed [\$300,000].

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 12 be approved.

15-0454 **AGENDA ITEM 13** Recommendation to approve sole source purchases of computer network equipment, servers, data storage, PCs (personal computers), and printers through joinder with the Western States Contracting Alliance (WSCA) Master Price Agreements for State of Nevada with Dell Inc. and Extreme Networks, Inc.; and approve expenditures that will aggregate to exceed [\$100,000] but will remain within available adopted budget funding during Fiscal Year 2015-2016 for technology infrastructure, not to exceed [\$2,000,000].

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 13 be approved.

15-0455 **AGENDA ITEM 14** Recommendation to approve sole source purchases of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) hardware and software; and consulting, implementation, maintenance and support services from BCT Conferencing, Inc. and approve expenditures that will aggregate to exceed [\$100,000] but will remain within available adopted budget funding during Fiscal Year 2015-2016 for technology infrastructure, not to exceed [\$450,000].

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 14 be approved.

15-0456 **AGENDA ITEM 15** Recommendation to approve joinder on the US Communities contract with Graybar, US Communities Master Agreement MA_IS_1040222_4 for County of Los Angeles, California until this agreement expires; and joinder on the GSA contracts with Accu-Tech, GSA Schedule 70: GS-35F-0499N and GSA Schedule 84: GS-07F-0309U

until this agreement expires; for the purchase of Telecommunications Supplies and Accessories; and approve expenditures that will aggregate to exceed [\$100,000] up to a not to exceed of [\$650,000] within the available Fiscal Year 2015-2016 adopted budget for technology infrastructure.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 15 be approved.

15-0457 **AGENDA ITEM 16** Recommendation to approve sole source purchases of Microsoft and Adobe licensing through joinder with the Western States Contracting Alliance (WSCA) Master Price Agreement for Software Value Added Reseller (SVAR) SHI International and approve expenditures that will aggregate to exceed [\$100,000] up to a maximum of [\$600,000] within the available Fiscal Year 2015-2016 adopted budget for technology infrastructure.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 16 be approved.

15-0458 **AGENDA ITEM 17** Recommendation to approve sole source purchases of radio communication system equipment and microwave radio communication equipment through joinder with the Western States Contracting Alliance (WSCA) Master Price Agreements for State of Nevada with Harris Corporation, Dailey and Wells Communication, and Alcatel Lucent and approve expenditures that will aggregate to exceed [\$100,000] but will remain within available adopted budget funding during Fiscal Year 2015-2016 for Washoe County Regional Communication system, not to exceed [\$1,000,000] all expenditures will require Joint Operating Committee approval.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 17 be approved.

15-0459 **AGENDA ITEM 18** Recommendation to approve sole source purchases of DC power equipment through Enersys Power/Full Solutions; and approve expenditures that will aggregate to exceed [\$100,000] but will remain within available adopted budget funding during Fiscal Year 2015-2016 for Washoe County Regional Communication system, not to exceed

[\$200,000] all expenditures will require Joint Operating Committee approval.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 18 be approved.

15-0460 **AGENDA ITEM 19** Recommendation of the 911 Emergency Response Advisory Committee to approve Fiscal Year 2015-2016 renewal of reimbursement to the City of Reno, for the salaries and benefits of 15 Geographic Information Systems (GIS) positions with Emergency 911 funds to support region-wide E911 GIS mapping services to the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPS) in an amount not to exceed [\$147,163].

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 19 be approved.

15-0461 **AGENDA ITEM 20** Recommendation to award Bid No. 2938-15 to the lowest responsive responsible bidder [staff recommends Cashman Equipment Company in the amount of \$142,000] for the purchase of one (1) new Weiler P385A Paver for the Community Services Department Operations Division.

Commissioner Hartung asked Dave Solaro, Community Services Director, what the paver would be utilized for. Mr. Solaro responded the County used pavers for patching work.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 20 be awarded.

15-0462 **AGENDA ITEM 21** Recommendation to award Bid No. 2936-15 to the lowest responsive responsible bidder [staff recommends Sierra Freightliner Sterling Western Star Inc., in the amount of \$358,800] for the purchase of three (3) replacement 66,000 GVWR Truck Cab/Chassis for the Community Services Department Operations Division.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 21 be awarded.

15-0463 **AGENDA ITEM 22** Recommendation to award a bid and approve the Agreement to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder for the Ventana Parkway Improvement Project [staff recommends Sierra Nevada Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$1,016,007].

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 22 be awarded.

15-0464 **AGENDA ITEM 23** Recommendation to accept a Grant from the Walter S. Johnson Foundation to reform the Department's policies and practices related for foster youth education outcomes effective August 1, 2015 through July 31, 2017 in the amount of \$300,000 [no County match required] and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget adjustments.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 23 be accepted and directed.

15-0465 **AGENDA ITEM 26** Discussion and possible approval of updated Citizen Advisory Board by-laws and updated resolutions to enact changes to Constituent Services programs for fiscal year 2016 [Net Zero Impact].

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 26 be approved. The Resolutions for same are attached hereto and made a part of the record thereof.

15-0466 **AGENDA ITEM 6** Discussion and possible action to establish a process to appoint one member on the Reno Tahoe Airport Authority Board of Trustees, term effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2019. Possibly including public statements by candidates, interviews, and selection of appointee. Applicants include: Lisa Gianoli, Robert Larkin, Keith Lockard, Terrence Matter, Patricia Phillips, Colleen Rosencrantz, Bonnie Weber, Bill Weber.

Joey Orduna Hastings, Assistant County Manager, asked for direction as to the interview and selection process. She provided a few options for the Board's consideration.

***11:02a.m.** Commissioner Jung joined the meeting via telephone.

After some discussion about the process, Chair Berkbigler stated the Board wished each applicant to come forward to give an opening statement after which the Board would select two individuals to continue the process. She said the Board would further question the two candidates later in the day. After some additional discussion it was determined each candidate would have five minutes to present their opening statements.

Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel, approved the process and noted it was not legally possible to exclude candidates from the Commission Chambers during the interviews of the others, but the Board could ask the applicants to exclude themselves out of fairness.

Ms. Orduna Hastings stated all of the candidates were open to remaining in the Human Resources conference room until after the opening statements and interviews, but requested permission to stay in Chambers after the statements were made. Commissioner Hartung stated that was fair.

Commissioner Hartung wondered in what order the applicants would be brought forward. Ms. Orduna Hastings replied the past practice was to bring them forward in alphabetical order. Chair Berkbigler stated that was acceptable to the Board.

Nancy Parent, County Clerk, stated the Manager's Office provided copies of the questions for the applicants, which would be placed on file and become a part of the record.

Upon the call for the Board to select their preferred questions from the 10 questions listed on the handout, Commissioner Hartung selected question 4, Commissioner Lacey selected question 8, Commissioner Herman selected question 10, Chair Berkbigler selected question 5, and Commissioner Jung selected question 2. Since she was participating by telephone, Commissioner Jung requested the Chair to ask her selected question on her behalf.

The following represents a list of the questions selected and edited to be given to each candidate:

1. How involved are you in the overall direction of the community's economic development and tourism?
2. What motivates you to seek this appointment and what are your goals?

3. How do you define a good working relationship between you and the taxpayers of Washoe County that you will represent?
4. In your opinion, what is the role of the state government in creating a vibrant, strong, and diverse economy at the County or regional level?
5. Please summarize the qualities/characteristics you bring to this position that would make you the best candidate for the position.

The candidates came forward in the following order to give an opening statement and to respond to the questions selected by the Board.

1. LISA GIANOLI
2. ROBERT LARKIN
3. KEITH LOCKARD
4. TERRENCE MATTER
5. PATRICIA PHILLIPS
6. BONNIE WEBER
7. BILL WEBER

At the conclusion of the interviews each Commissioner recommended two candidates to move forward with the process.

Commissioner Jung stated it was a difficult but important decision. She selected Lisa Gianoli because she thought her background in handling controversial situations would be helpful. She also chose Bonnie Weber because she thought the Board would need someone who understood the end-user experience and would advocate for people who accessed airport services.

Commissioner Herman selected Robert Larkin because she appreciated his good record and his experience. She also chose Bill Weber because of his background.

Commissioner Hartung talked about each of the candidates. He said Lisa Gianoli understood lobbying issues and the interactions between people. He said she understood "you don't always win" and that was something that struck home with him. He said Robert Larkin understood how the County process worked and how the different agencies fit together. Mr. Larkin was also a pilot and understood the dynamics of airport structure. Commissioner Hartung stated Keith Lockard served the community in many different capacities, was a great public servant, and was highly qualified. He said Terrence Matter was in the Air Force, served on the Board of the Reno Air Races, and was very impressive. He stated Patricia Phillips wanted to expand economic development and tourism, which he thought was very important. He said Ms. Phillips also worked at the federal level and at the County; and understood that increasing direct flights would make a difference. He stated Bonnie Weber was a former Commissioner, served on the Board of the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority (RSCVA), understood the Airport Authority, and had great institutional knowledge. He said Bill Weber was a great

leader, personally helped guide him through the process as a Planning Commissioner, was a retired police officer, understood regional issues, had great leadership skills, was a great volunteer, wanted the airport to be a hub, and wanted to improve service delivery. Commissioner Hartung said he thought it was very important to note all of the qualifications of the seven candidates. He chose Lisa Gianoli and Robert Larkin.

Commissioner Lucey said this was a difficult decision for him. He said he understood the position was a dynamic one and he felt confident in Lisa Gianoli and Terrence Matter.

Chair Berkgigler said she appreciated Commissioner Hartung's summary about each candidate and she agreed with him. She said the County was lucky to have so many citizens who wanted to be active in the community and it was a much more difficult decision than she thought it would be. She selected Lisa Gianoli and Bonnie Weber.

Ms. Orduna Hastings stated there was a majority vote for Lisa Gianoli.

On the call for public comment, Michael B. Stuart, JLM Industrial Supply, stated his support for Robert Larkin. He had high regard for Dr. Larkin's skills and experience in business and financial matters as well as his aviation experience and knowledge as a current Trustee on the Airport Authority Board. He stated Dr. Larkin's strengths included a thorough understanding about where the community was going in terms of economic growth and the aviation industry. He thought that was important since Reno was one of six States that was chosen for unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) activity. He said the Airport Authority Board had a lot of work to do to bring international flights to Reno and to expand Class C airspace. He urged the Board to consider the re-appointment of Dr. Larkin.

John Howitt thought there were a lot of great candidates, but he disagreed with the Board's decision because he thought Robert Larkin was the best choice. He said he heard people talk about increasing airport service but he thought that was naïve because multi-million dollar businesses would only come to Reno if the demand was created and sustained. He said the suggestion for taxpayers to provide seat guarantees for airlines would prematurely push airlines to come to Reno before there was substantial demand, which would result in failure. He thought it was important to understand that half of the \$50 million budget came from federal tax dollars, which was subject to the airport remaining open to all classes of aircraft. He said the local taxpayers would be left holding the bag if the airport lost their federal funding, which was why he felt it was important to appoint an experienced person. He said he appreciated the qualifications of all the candidates and would look forward to working with Lisa Gianoli.

Robert H. Meurer, President Reno Tahoe Aviation Group, described his background and stated his support for Robert Larkin. He said Mr. Larkin had done a tremendous job helping the aviation community and, even though Mr. Larkin was his preferred choice for Airport Trustee, he looked forward to working with Lisa Gianoli.

Camille Knox said she came to support Robert Larkin, but she looked forward to working with Lisa Gianoli.

Cathy Brandhorst spoke about matters of concern to herself.

County Clerk Parent stated Susan Hartley and Lyndle Farris did not wish to speak to the Board, but submitted comment cards to relay their support for Robert Larkin. She said Jim Rundle also submitted a comment card, which stated his support for Robert Larkin; however, Mr. Rundle had to leave and was not present to speak.

Chair Berkbigler thanked all the candidates and County staff for their work organizing the interviews. She said she heard many comments regarding the wonderful job Robert Larkin had done and she appreciated that he was a good representative for the County.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Lisa Gianoli be appointed to the Reno Tahoe Airport Authority Board of Trustees, term effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2019.

15-0467 **AGENDA ITEM 24** Acknowledge receipt of Sheriff's Office Forensics Lab/City of Reno Dispatch Agreement Review from the Internal Audit Division; with possible direction to staff for implementing the Audit Report recommendations.

Alison Gordon, Internal Auditor, said she was asked to review the Sheriff's Office Forensics Lab/City of Reno Dispatch Agreement which was established in 1990. She said the Agreement allowed for the exchange of services between the two agencies at no cost to either of them. There were several attempts to revise the 1990 Agreement over the years, however, the City and the County had been unable to reach an agreement on proposed revisions.

Ms. Gordon estimated the value of exchanging forensics services for dispatch services by identifying actual costs and the percentage of work attributable to the City of Reno through data collected using the County's accounting program, SAP. She said dispatch data was obtained from several sources and in several instances she found it to be inconsistent regarding the number of calls. The most consistent data was obtained from the Tiburon System which was used by both agencies and covered the timeframe from 2007 forward. Her analysis showed that the value of forensics services provided to the City exceeded the value of dispatch services provided to the County.

Ms. Gordon explained the County had several options to consider. The options included working with the City to revise the existing agreement, negotiating a new agreement, or terminating the existing agreement, which would require 90 days written notice to the City. She said another option would involve regionalizing dispatch

services and addressing the forensic services separately. She said in fiscal year 2001 a working group comprised of first responders within the region was asked to determine the feasibility of consolidating dispatch centers and to develop a plan for regionalization. The first step was taken in July, 2012 when services were collocated and in 2014 County and City staff worked on a draft Interlocal Agreement and a plan of action; however, to date efforts to regionalize dispatch had not been finalized.

Ms. Gordon said several studies had been performed over the years which recommended the regionalization of dispatch services. Those studies included the 2012 tri-data report, a 2007 report by the Matrix Consulting Group to the Regional 9-1-1 Advisory Committee, and the 2014 Blue Ribbon Committee report on regional fire services. Further research revealed other examples of regionalized dispatch services in Holbrook, Massachusetts; Danbury, Connecticut; and, Charleston County, North Carolina. She said the Charleston County 9-1-1 center was completed in fiscal year 2012 and it provided dispatch services for 20 local jurisdictions. Charleston County found some of the benefits of consolidation included improved response times, the elimination of duplicate services within the region, increased communication and cooperation among emergency response agencies, and improved coordinated responses to emergency scenes.

Commissioner Jung asked if staff had any recommendations to resolve the issue. Ms. Gordon re-stated the options she presented earlier in the presentation. Commissioner Jung thought the issue should be discussed during a concurrent meeting with the City of Reno and Chair Berkgigler agreed.

Commissioner Hartung noted the data only went back to 2007 even though the Interlocal Agreement was ratified in 1990. He wondered if that was because the services were somewhat even until 2007 or if there was a lack of data prior to that year. Ms. Gordon replied verifiable dispatch data was not available for the years prior to 2007. Commissioner Hartung stated the difference between the cost of forensic services and dispatch services for the period of 2007 to 2014 amounted to about \$6 million, which was substantive. He noted the annual cost for communication staff was about \$1.5 million and he wondered if that was how much it would cost for the County to take it over. Ms. Gordon replied the \$1.5 million would be in addition to current costs, because the County already had dispatch staff.

John Spencer, Undersheriff, explained Reno was providing the County with call-taking services and \$1.5 million represented how much it would cost the County to have standalone dispatch services. He said Ms. Gordon provided a year-by-year cost for the services that Reno was providing to the County, but there were other costs that were not necessarily reflected in those numbers. He said the City of Reno used to provide dispatch services for the majority of the County's Sheriff's Office, with the exception of the Incline Village area, but things had changed significantly over the years. He said services were somewhat bifurcated before they collocated in 2011. He explained when someone called 9-1-1 from a land-line anywhere in the County, with the exception of Incline Village, it was answered by a City call-taker first and then transferred to County

dispatch staff. He said the Sheriff's Office highly recommended the regional concept for dispatch services and for the crime lab as well.

Commissioner Hartung concurred with Undersheriff Spencer, but noted the average deficit to the County was about \$560,000 for services that were not being compensated for. He thought a conversation should be had sooner rather than later because it included all emergency services. Undersheriff Spencer replied he had an opportunity to speak before the Reno Mayor and the Reno City Council during a discussion about the consolidation of fire services and he made it clear the Sheriff's Office was the dispatch provider for Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD), Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD), North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, and the Gerlach Fire Volunteers. He said that meant the Sheriff's Office had a large stake in the dispatch component of any future changes to fire services. Commissioner Hartung stated his appreciation and said the Sheriff's Office was doing a great job. He said he was not looking for a way to make money for the County, but wanted the exchange of services to be net zero.

Chair Berkbigler echoed Commissioner Hartung's concerns. She asked if there was a pay difference between County and City dispatch staff. Undersheriff Spencer stated personnel from the Reno Police Department, the Sparks Police Department, and the Sheriff's Office worked side by side in the Regional Safety Training Center; however, they all had different contracts and different pay scales. He stated the intent was to bring all of the personnel together under one contract and one bargaining group; and to make pay commensurate with the level of training. He said it was his belief that the call center should be the hub for all emergency dispatch. He stated he did not have an interest in merging with the Reno Police Department, but was primarily interested in using regional assets to provide the best level of service to the community as quickly as possible. Chair Berkbigler thought most people realized certain services should be regionalized.

1:35 p.m.* Commissioner Jung's telephone connection was lost.

Chair Berkbigler stated if the Board chose to terminate the existing contract with a 90-day notice that would put the Sheriff's Office in the position of moving forward with negotiations for a dispatch unit. Undersheriff Spencer said if the County terminated the agreement, then it would need to get staff trained and ready to handle 9-1-1 calls within 90 days to avoid being deficient in its responsibilities. He said a contract termination would also affect the City of Reno as the County would be presenting them with a bill for forensic services that they might not be prepared to respond to. He stated the goal was to continue to provide the same level of service that was currently being provided and he would not want to see that diminished due to the termination of the agreement. He said he believed a regional dispatch concept would be very beneficial for the community moving forward.

Commissioner Hartung thought it was the County's fiduciary responsibility to try to resolve the issue with the City of Reno by engaging in conversations with them. Commissioner Herman agreed.

Chair Berkbigler asked Undersheriff Spencer what direction he preferred to receive from the Board. Undersheriff Spencer recommended the Board support ongoing conversations with the City of Reno to discuss pay disparity and training issues; and to try to garner some understanding about what it would take to bring dispatch services together as one unit and work towards regionalization. He said the sooner they could correct the issues, the sooner they could move forward. He said he was unprepared to advise the Board as to how long it would take to recruit, perform background checks, and train personnel to be situated to stand alone from the City, but if the Board chose to dissolve the existing contract, he could come back with more information. He stated if the Board chose to work towards regionalization, he thought an appropriate level of staff could be provided without having to hire additional personnel.

Commissioner Hartung said sometimes it was better not to trade services, but to just trade checks. Commissioner Lucey agreed and said he thought it would be in the best interest of the community to continue to untangle the mess and move toward a regional dispatch service. He suggested a target of six months to get to that goal and said if it could not be done in six months; there were some bigger issues to resolve. He also suggested that County and City Managers participate in negotiations.

On the call for public comment, Cathy Brandhorst spoke about matters of concern to herself.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered to acknowledge the receipt of the Sheriff's Office Forensics Lab/City of Reno Dispatch Agreement Review, to continue with the current contract, to move towards negotiations with the City of Reno and other entities regarding regional dispatch services, and to untangle the current contract within the next six months.

15-0468 AGENDA ITEM 39 Possible Closed Session for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations with Washoe County, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and/or Sierra Fire Protection District per NRS 288.220.

1:51 p.m. On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that the meeting recess to a closed session for the purpose of discussing negotiations with Employee Organizations per NRS 288.220.

3:31 p.m. The meeting reconvened with Commissioner Jung absent.

15-0469 **AGENDA ITEM 25** Recommendation to appoint Two of Seven Individuals—Wendy Alderman, Karen Hudson, Debbie Jacobs, Robert Kirk, Zanny Marsh, Theodore May III, or Jennifer Swiergiel—to Fill Two Vacant Seats on the Washoe County Library Board of Trustees, with Both Terms Effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2019.

Arnie Maurins, Library Director, stated there were two vacancies on the Library Board of Trustees and the Library Board had voted to recommend three applicants. He said the Board currently had representatives from Districts 1, 2, and 4, but there were no applicants from District 3 or 5.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, Wendy Alderman was appointed to the Library Board of Trustees, with a term effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2019. Commissioner

On motion by Commissioner Herman, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, Zanny Marsh was appointed to the Library Board of Trustees, with a term effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2019.

There was no public comment on this item.

15-0470 **AGENDA ITEM 27** Discussion and possible direction to the County Clerk to cause notice to be published and posted of an application by Southwest Gas Corporation for a Franchise Agreement to provide natural gas service to portions of Washoe County and to set the date for a hearing on the application including any objections thereto for July 14, 2015.

Dave Solaro, Community Services Director, said the current Franchise Agreement with Southwest Gas Corporation would expire on May 22nd and work had been done with the District Attorney's Office to renew it. He explained the Franchise Agreement was for the provision of gas to Incline Village and Washoe Valley areas and this agenda item would cause the public to be notified about the public hearing planned for July 14th. He added there were terms within the State law that provided for a 2 percent fee to benefit the School District.

Commissioner Hartung asked if the rates were established by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Mr. Solaro confirmed they were and stated this agenda item did not have anything to do with rates. He said he understood it was a non-exclusive agreement, so if someone else wanted to provide service to Washoe Valley they could go through the same process.

Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel, said he would have to check on that, but it was his understanding that it was an exclusive agreement for the defined area. He noted that pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 709.070 the company was required to

provide a deposit to the Clerk to cover the cost of the publication which would notice the public about the hearing. He stated the Clerk's Office was prepared to arrange for the deposit.

Chair Berkbigler confirmed with Nancy Parent, County Clerk, that there would be sufficient time to publish the notice for a July 14th public hearing.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered to direct the County Clerk to cause notice to be published and posted of an application by Southwest Gas Corporation for a franchise agreement to provide natural gas service to portions of Washoe County and to set the date for a hearing on the application including any objections thereto for July 14, 2015.

15-0471 **AGENDA ITEM 28** Introduction and first reading of an Ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 25 by creating provisions regulating commercial breeders (through a commercial breeding permit) and adding related definitions; and also amending Washoe County Code Chapter 25 by adding the definitions of "breeder" and "commercial breeder", making changes to the definitions of "breeding" and "litter", and specifying that commercial breeders must first obtain a commercial breeding permit from regional animal services before receiving the required business license, and all other matters properly relating thereto; and, if supported, set the public hearing for second reading and possible adoption of the ordinance on June 23, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.

Nancy Parent, County Clerk, read the title for Bill No. 1742.

On the call for public comment, Tim Stoffel said the commercial breeders permit was part of a package of Ordinances that Animal Services was trying to get passed. He stated concerns that the bill would make it more difficult to do business and wondered why the County did not just follow the Nevada Revised Statutes. He thought new regulations could result in a reduced standard of care for animals.

Jimmie Martin, Sierra Safari Zoo, stated the Sierra Zoo was a non-profit organization that had been in operation for 26 years. He said it was enormously stressful to care for the exotic animals that did not fit in anywhere else. He thought it was absurd to require animals to be kept on anything but dirt or pasture because most of them did not benefit from being on concrete. He felt political agendas were responsible for the proposed Ordinance changes.

Chris Vaught stated she was a resident of Washoe Valley and that she held a current permit to keep three or more dogs. She said she was a professional dog trainer and had many years of experience in animal husbandry. She stated she and some other

breeders helped the County define “commercial breeder” about five years ago and she thought they came up with some language that was fair for people that did things with their dogs that were more formal in nature. She was unhappy the proposed Ordinance changes would identify anyone who had a third litter of dogs as a commercial breeder. She said she supported purpose-bred dogs and she thought there was a movement towards vilifying commercial breeders. She said the proposed changes were irresponsible, negative, and would create more puppy mills.

Chair Berkbigler asked Bobby Smith, Animal Services Director, why the number of litters was reduced from five to three. Mr. Smith stated there had been a lot of discussion about the number of litters that would define a commercial breeder and the final compromise was to set the number at three.

Commissioner Herman thought the restrictive Ordinance changes would hurt an industry. She suggested conducting workshops to discuss the matter further.

Commissioner Hartung said one of the public speakers mentioned putting down pavement and he asked if he understood correctly that this agenda item was only dealing with kennels. Mr. Smith replied the Ordinance was specifically about dogs and cats. Commissioner Hartung wondered if it would be an issue to raise the number of litters for a commercial breeder from three to five. Mr. Smith said that number could be changed to five if it was the Board’s desire.

Commissioner Lucey said his suggestion would be to note the Ordinance changes would only affect domestic dogs and cats and not exotic animals. He disclosed he was the owner of a veterinary hospital and stated it was his opinion to maintain the number of litters for a commercial breeder at five.

Chair Berkbigler asked Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel, if the Board could proceed with the introduction and first reading of the bill with the recommended change. Mr. Lipparelli responded that State law required the Board to give notice on its agenda, so non-substantive changes could be made without a legal problem. He said the Ordinance title did not indicate that the number of litters was fundamental, so he thought if the bill was introduced with the number of litters specified as five, and if the notice of adoption hearing specified the number of litters was five, that would provide sufficient notice to the public. Chair Berkbigler stated the change to five litters would be her preference.

Commissioner Hartung stated he found the Nevada Revised Statute to be confusing. Mr. Smith said further Code changes would be coming to the Board later with clarifying definitions.

Bill No. 1742 was introduced by Commissioner Lucey, and legal notice for final action of adoption was directed. Commissioner Lucey noted the Board wished the number of litters for a commercial breeder to remain at five.

15-0472 **AGENDA ITEM 34** Discussion and possible action to appoint Social Services Director after public interview. Candidates to be interviewed are: Amber Howell, Robin Landry and Michael McMahon.

Joey Orduna Hastings, Assistant County Manager, stated there were three candidates waiting in the conference room and the suggested interview questions had been provided to the Board. She asked if the Board wanted to interview the candidates in alphabetical order to be consistent with the previous interview. Chair Berkbigler stated the Board would conduct the interviews in the same manner as the previous interview, that each candidate would be given five minutes to speak, and that each Commissioner would ask a question. She said the voting process would entail each Commissioner voting for one candidate. Ms. Orduna Hastings acknowledged Kathy Hart, Human Resources Training and Development Manager, for her efforts to keep the Manager's Office on task so they could get this agenda item to the Board in a timely manner.

The following represents a list of the questions selected and edited to be given to each candidate:

1. Please share with us some creative and innovative management practices or programs you have introduced to your agency or department? What were the results of these activities?
2. What has been your approach to working successfully with state and federal agencies as well as private, non-profit organizations?
3. How do you encourage, motivate, and develop staff?
4. By the end of the first 90 days, six months, and first year, what would you expect to have accomplished as the new Social Services Director?

The following candidates came forward in the following order to give an opening statement and to respond to the questions selected by the Board:

1. Amber Howell
2. Robin Landry
3. Michael McMahon

On the call for public comment, Michael Capello said he previously served as the Social Services Director and since his retirement served in the field of child welfare. He stated his support of Amber Howell for the position of Social Services Director. He said he had the opportunity to work with her as a consultant and a trainer across the State and one of his tasks had been to review child fatalities. He reported that the State's Legislative Counsel Bureau found there was no evidence that fatalities or near-fatalities were caused by agency non-compliance with State or Federal laws. He

further stated there was no evidence there were any measures, procedures, or protocols that could have assisted in the prevention of any fatalities or near-fatalities. He said there had been a diligent effort to improve upon practices and it was his opinion that Ms. Howell would be best suited to carry that work forward.

Donna Clontz stated she was the Chair of the Senior Citizen Advisory Board for the City of Reno and also served on the County's Senior Advisory Committee. She said, as an advocate for seniors, she was really glad to hear the Board ask questions about senior issues and she knew the Board had a hard decision to make because all of the candidates were extremely experienced. She said the County needed a robust and vibrant senior program and she hoped that whichever candidate the Board chose would have a strong understanding of the senior population. She said the County's services were not serving nearly enough seniors currently, so it would be really important to have creative and strong leadership in the position. She wished the Board good luck in making the choice.

Commissioner Hartung said he wanted to talk a little bit about each of the candidates. He stated Ms. Howell had a very impressive resume, was highly qualified, and had said some things that moved him regarding having a data driven approach, maximizing resources, and that "you can't be all things to all people". He stated Ms. Landry was also very impressive, warm and engaging. He noted she was very structured, wanted to see a higher level of care, and recommended a bottom-up rather than a top-down approach, which he concurred with. He said Dr. McMahon was very impressive, worked at Washoe Medical Center, was the Administrator of the Division of Welfare and Support Services and understood that strengths could be built on weaknesses, which he thought was a wonderful position to take. He said the choice was difficult, but he recommended Amber Howell for the position.

Commissioner Herman thought all the candidates were bright shining stars and she agreed with Commissioner Hartung's statements about each of them. She recommended Robin Landry for the position.

Commissioner Lucey stated he always felt it was important to hire the person, not the position. He said the person they appointed to this position would need to be dynamic, approachable, and committed to new and innovative processes. He said all of the candidates were extremely qualified; however, he would recommend Amber Howell.

Chair Berkgigler said the group was very impressive and she recommended Amber Howell.

Ms. Orduna Hastings stated the majority vote was for Amber Howell.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered to appoint Amber Howell to the position of Social Services Director effective immediately.

Ms. Howell thanked the Board for their support and said she was honored to be chosen. She looked forward to working with the Board to improve the lives of the citizens of Washoe County.

15-0473 **AGENDA ITEM 29** Introduction and first reading of an Ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 55 by creating provisions regulating commercial animal establishments (through an animal welfare permit), by adding related definitions, and by making changes to the definitions of “Animal” and “County,” and all other matters properly relating thereto; and, if supported, set the public hearing for second reading and possible adoption of the ordinance on June 23, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.

Nancy Parent, County Clerk, read the title for Bill No. 1743.

Bill No. 1743 was introduced by Commissioner Lucey and legal notice for final action of adoption was directed. The Clerk was later ordered to kill this bill number, please see the discussion and final action below.

On the call for public comment, John Potash, Get Rattled, stated his concerns about the Code changes, which he said were convoluted, confusing and full of gaps. He said the changes would create a problem for his business and he knew he would not be the only one affected. He talked about his experiences providing rattlesnake training for dogs and the level of experience and education he had. He stated the Code changes would prohibit him from obtaining a permit because of the uniqueness of his business and he was concerned about the credentials and experience of those who would be overseeing what he had been professionally trained to do. He asked the Board to wipe the slate clean and to work with him to create a sound and rational Ordinance.

Tim Stoffel, Sierra Safari Zoo, stated the Code changes were a train wreck. He said the changes would require the paving of animal enclosures; the cost of which would be astronomical. He claimed the changes were suggested by animal rights activists who had a lot of influence. He stated the Sierra Safari Zoo was already required to be licensed with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and he did not see a reason for another level of regulations. He said the changes would result in a system without checks and balances because Animal Services would have the ability to create their own rules, procedures, applications, and requirements. He thought the bill needed to be reviewed by all affected parties, not just Animal Services.

Joe Reinhardt, Owner of Silver State Kennel, hoped the animal welfare permit changes were being considered for the right reasons. He talked about what he did to minimize the spread of contagious diseases and said his definition of animal welfare included the humane treatment of animals and ensuring that health needs were attended to. He stated his facility operated under a Special Use Permit (SUP) and he thought the Code changes would penalize his business by requiring even more permits. He wondered if the same scrutiny would apply to backyard and hobby breeders and if Animal Services

staff would have the ability to ensure Code enforcement. He said if the intent was to promote animal welfare he was all for it, but if it was to promote the intentions and agendas of animal activists, he was not sure he would agree to it.

Michael Schneider, Owner of Puppies Plus, said he was very concerned about the requirement to place his puppies in isolation for 120 hours. He stated all his puppies were checked by a licensed Veterinarian before they traveled to his store and again before they were sold. He thought the fact that the puppies received two exams within three days was sufficient and that the 120-hour isolation would be detrimental to sales as well as to the health of the dogs. His intent was to sell the puppies as quickly as possible and the restriction would greatly affect that ability.

Daniel Gray, Sierra Aquatics, said he was a business owner and an animal lover. His biggest concern was the lack of notification to business owners. He said the changes specified there would be an application process, but did not identify the related requirements or fees so there was a lot of missing information. He stated concerns about the requirement for floors and walls to be constructed of non-porous materials, the 120-hour isolation, and the regulations which would restrict where people could buy their animals. He thought that all of the time business owners spent trying to keep up with the new laws and regulations could be better spent caring for their animals.

Chris Vaught said she was concerned that the proposed changes did not exclude horse training or boarding facilities. She said Bobby Smith, Animal Services Director, directed her to read the definition of "operator" in the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS), but she maintained the NRS definition also did not exclude such facilities. She said veterinarian boarding facilities were not included in the proposed changes, which she found concerning because she had a very bad experience boarding with a Veterinarian. She thought if the Ordinance changes were really about animal welfare everyone should be covered by it.

Jimmie Martin, Sierra Safari Zoo, said his zoo was licensed with the USDA and the Nevada Department of Wildlife and was inspected annually. He thought adding further County regulations seemed redundant and the purported intent to promote safety was dubious. He wondered if other facilities such as the Charles River Laboratory or the horses on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land would be affected by the Code changes as well. He said if those facilities were exempt, he wanted to apply for an exemption too. He asked if the changes included any grandfather clauses for facilities that had been operating safely for a lot of years. He urged the Board to either reconsider the proposed changes or to abandon them all together.

Barry O'Dea, On Command, said he had been training dogs for 31 years and he was concerned about who would be enforcing the new regulations because they might not have an appropriate level of experience. He thought boarding a dog at a veterinary facility was like taking a child to a hospital for daycare because there were sick dogs on the property. For that reason he thought veterinarians should have to comply with the same regulations as everyone else.

Commissioner Herman said she had asked for a workshop to discuss the issues that were brought up in public comment. She said when she asked Bobby Smith, Animal Services Director, about who would be regulating the Ordinance changes and he reassured her that he would not need to hire any more staff. She thought the changes would be putting more people out of business and said the County needed to consider the economic freedom of its citizens. She reiterated her request for a workshop.

Commissioner Lucey asked Mr. Smith if the Code changes were intended to bring the Code up to NRS standards. Mr. Smith replied the changes were meant to bring some administrative sections of the NRS into the County Code to ensure animal welfare. Commissioner Lucey said he wanted to make the point that the changes were not coming "out of the blue" and the purpose was to align the Code with State requirements. Mr. Smith stated the County had been working on the changes with the City of Reno and he thought the end result was manageable and would ensure animal welfare.

Commissioner Lucey stated he was the owner of a veterinary facility and it was governed by the NRS as well as by the Veterinary Board of Medical Examiners. He said the conditions placed on veterinary facilities were just as stringent as the proposed changes to the Code. Mr. Smith responded that was correct and said if there was a problem with a Veterinarian it was reported to the State Board. Commissioner Lucey stated he wanted to ensure that was clarified because some concerns were raised about why Veterinarians were being excluded.

Commissioner Hartung said regulations were targeted for irresponsible people and sometimes responsible business owners were overlooked. He continued to be concerned about some of the proposed language and thought the definition of "animal" needed to be clear. He was also concerned about the requirement for walls and floors of enclosures to be constructed of non-absorbent, non-porous materials. He knew there were some irresponsible people, but he felt compelled to protect those who were responsible. He said the Board already had the first reading of the bill so he wondered if the Board was required to have a second reading without a revision by the date certain.

Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel, said the purpose of the introduction and first reading of the bill was to provide notice to the public of the Ordinances that would be considered for adoption in the future. He said once a bill was introduced it was on course to be scheduled for a public hearing and possible adoption. He explained there could not be significant changes between the form of the bill as it was introduced and the version that the Board considered for adoption because that would defeat the purpose of the notice. He said if a majority of the Commissioners wanted to direct changes to be made to the bill, it would be better if it was done at this point because the Board could only adopt or not adopt a bill at a second reading. The bill had already been introduced and given a bill number, but if the Board wanted to go in a different direction, then the bill could be rescinded and further direction could be given.

Mr. Smith said the reason they specified what "animal" meant in the proposed changes was just for clarification purposes. He said the definitions that were

being added did not apply to just this one Ordinance, but was applicable to all of Chapter 55.

Commissioner Hartung appealed to the other Board members to take a step back and review the proposed changes because he wanted to make sure that any adopted changes did not have unintended consequences. He acknowledged there were some responsible people who were upset about the changes and he thought the Board owed it to reevaluate it.

Chair Berkgigler agreed with Commissioner Hartung. She asked if the changes would result in additional license requirements for commercial breeders who were already licensed at the County level. Mr. Smith replied there would be another welfare permit with a yearly fee of \$100 to cover inspections and paperwork costs. Chair Berkgigler stated Animal Services would be doing the yearly inspections and asked if that would be done in conjunction with USDA inspections. Mr. Smith said the paperwork for the Special Use Permit was exactly the same as the one that was used by the USDA.

Chair Berkgigler asked about the requirement to keep dogs and cats in isolation for a minimum of 120 hours, which equaled five days. Mr. Smith explained the reason for that was because, even though a puppy would get a physical before being transported and then another one within two or three days upon arrival, it was discovered that around day five of that process the animals would break out with some kind of illness due to stress. He stated they were just trying to ensure the animals could get proper treatment before they were sold. Chair Berkgigler asked if this requirement would also apply to groups like the Humane Society or the Beagle Rescue Group. Mr. Smith stated it would not apply to adoption facilities because they typically already had checks and balances in place.

Chair Berkgigler asked what the current policy was for circuses that came to town. She wanted to know who licensed them. Mr. Smith replied they only obtained temporary special permits, typically from the City of Reno, and there were no animal welfare checks.

Chair Berkgigler noted the changes also included a new definition for commercial animal establishments. She said her concern was that the proposed changes seemed to jump from one issue to another and she was a strong advocate of bills and Ordinances being specific to avoid confusion. She said it appeared the bill was stepping over some lines and she would like to see the proposed changes pulled and taken back to the drawing board.

Commissioner Hartung talked about the work being done at the Animal Ark, which was licensed through the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) to take in bears or other injured animals. He said he did not want to put undue stress on those types of facilities.

Commissioner Lucey agreed with the other Commissioners and said there were a number of issues that were presented in the same Ordinance. He said he understood the intent was to regulate the offenders and not the everyday quality providers, but he thought it was a good idea to take a step back and break it out into several more specific Ordinances.

Mr. Lipparelli stated that in light of the fact that Commissioner Lucey introduced the bill and was now willing to rescind it, he suggested the Board order the Clerk to kill the bill number and to direct staff to bring the issue back to the Board with any changes they would like to see.

Chair Berkbigler directed the Clerk to kill Bill No. 1743. She asked Mr. Smith if it was clear what the Board wanted him to bring back. Mr. Smith said he understood the Board would like to see the changes broken out to three or four Code sections. Chair Berkbigler asked those who expressed their concerns during public comment to get in touch with Mr. Smith to discuss their issues.

15-0474 **AGENDA ITEM 30** Introduction and first reading of an Ordinance amending the Washoe County Code at Chapter 110 (Development Code) Article 106, Master Plan Categories and Regulatory Zones at Section 110.106.15, Regulatory Zones, to repeal and replace paragraph (u) with new language re-defining the Specific Plan Regulatory Zone, to amend Table 110.302.05.4 governing industrial land use types to define which industrial use types are permitted in the Specific Plan Regulatory Zone, and to add Article 442, Specific Plan Standards and Procedures, to provide criteria and procedures for rezoning to the Specific Plan Regulatory Zone, tentative approval, final approval, recording, enforcement and amendment of Specific Plans, consistent with NRS 278A Planned Development. Recommendations include other matters properly relating thereto; and if supported, set the public hearing for second reading and possible adoption of the Ordinance for June 23, 2015, at 3:00 p.m. Community Services.

Nancy Parent, County Clerk, read the title for Bill No. 1744.

Commissioner Herman asked if this item had something to do with Burning Man. Eric Young, Planner, stated Article 442 would be new to the Development Code and would be applicable anywhere in the County. Commissioner Herman asked how the change would affect an existing Specific Plan Area (SPA). Mr. Young talked about the two-map process, which was developed because the current process was not consistent with Nevada Revised Statute (NRS). Commissioner Herman mentioned the Warm Springs SPA and Mr. Young explained the process in more detail, adding that it would not affect the Warm Springs SPA.

Chair Berkbigler asked if the Ordinance change would streamline an existing process or create a new process. Mr. Young replied it would create a new process under the application for a regulatory zone amendment and would consist of