

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

FEBRUARY 21, 2017

PRESENT:

**Bob Lucey, Chair**  
**Marsha Berkbigler, Vice Chair**  
**Kitty Jung, Commissioner**  
**Vaughn Hartung, Commissioner**  
**Jeanne Herman, Commissioner**

**Nancy Parent, County Clerk**  
**John Slaughter, County Manager**  
**Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel**

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:44 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:

**17-0122      AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.**

Ron McConnell, Sun Valley resident, spoke about the Waste Management (WM) contract and how his bill was raised by \$8 a month. He implied illegal dumping was caused by the Stead Transfer Station being closed Sundays and Mondays and because disposal of televisions was expensive. He expressed frustration that the WM call center was based in Phoenix, Arizona.

Donna Clontz, Chair of the Reno Senior Citizen Advisory Committee, provided a handout which was placed on file with the Clerk. She stated the Committee reviewed the new Codes that would consolidate departments and they discovered language pertaining to her board they wanted to see changed. She suggested the Committee go down to nine members, five of which would be appointed from each district and four at-large members. She said it was proposed they eliminate the ex officio members, which would include those from the Reno and Sparks City Councils. She opined those ex officio officers should not be eliminated. Second, the new Code stated reporting was to go through the department or the division, but she suggested it go through the Board of County Commissioners as well. Finally she requested the duty be reinstated that the Committee would once again recommend and evaluate programs and policies. She referenced a first reading of a proposed Ordinance scheduled for February 28, 2017.

**17-0123**      **AGENDA ITEM 9** Announcements/Reports.

John Slaughter, County Manager, noted the first reading Ms. Clontz referenced would not take place on February 28th.

Commissioner Jung directed Kevin Schiller, Assistant County Manager, to reach out to address Mr. McConnell's concerns. She would like to consider the Senior Citizen's Advisory Board's advice about the changes in the Code language. She suggested the County give the Senior Advisory Board money to enhance senior living, possibly using what the Cities of Sparks and Reno had done as models.

Commissioner Hartung stated he received a late notice from his home alarm company without having received a bill. While they waived the late fee, nobody had contacted him to resolve the issue. He stated the alarm registration fee was \$24, which was split evenly between the company and the Sherriff's Office (SO). The fee for not paying the registration on time was \$25. He requested an accounting of the late fees from Alarm Tracking and Billing (ATB) in Colorado Springs because he alleged the SO was not seeing any portion of the late fees.

Commissioner Berkbigler repeated an old request to see an audit from Cooperative Extension on how the County's funds were being used. Commissioner Herman expressed concern over the flooding in Lemmon Valley, saying some residents were staying in motels due to flooding. She pleaded the Commissioners find a way to help the residents, perhaps using the Governor's Emergency funds.

Chair Lucey requested an agenda item for Commissioner comments and announcements be added to agendas after the initial Public Comment. He told of spending a day with David Solaro, Director of Community Services, visiting with residents throughout the South Valleys. He said ditch and drainage concerns needed to be addressed and asked for a report about the maintenance efforts. He confirmed a plan by the City of Reno to annex a piece of property in Steamboat Valley that he felt was an overreach by the City into County lands. He urged the City of Reno deny the annexation plan and also a master plan amendment for the developers. He entreated Cathy Hill, County Comptroller, to contact ATB immediately to address the alarm system late bills. Commissioner Hartung added the Commissioners could ask ATB to come before the Board to discuss the topic in public.

Commissioner Hartung asked Mr. Slaughter to bring the Steamboat Valley annexation agreement before the Board, saying he felt the area was not contiguous to City property and therefore the annexation was a violation of the agreement. He expressed concern about the precedent this could set. Commissioner Herman added the major reason for the flooding in Lemmon Valley was due to the swelling of Swan Lake.

There was no public comment or action taken on this item.

**17-0124**      **AGENDA ITEM 4** Introduction of new Washoe County Employees.  
Human Resources.

John Slaughter, County Manager, asked the following employees to introduce themselves to the Board:

Alicia Seefeldt, Social Services  
Melanie Lever, Comptroller's Office  
Kari Estrada, Manager's Office  
Jay Johnson, Technology Services  
Joseph Prutch, Community Services  
Casey Berry, Social Services  
Jonathan Brown, Registrar of Voters  
Jamie Rodriguez, Manager's Office

There was no public comment or action taken on this item.

**17-0125**      **AGENDA ITEM 5** Presentation of Excellence in Public Service  
Certificates honoring the following Washoe County employees who have  
completed essential employee development courses.

John Slaughter, County Manager, recognized the following employees for successful completion of the Excellence in Public Service Certificate Programs administered by the Human Resources Department:

**Promote Yourself! Mini Certificate Program**

Sue Councilman, District Attorney  
Pamela Matson, Comptroller

**Essentials of Management Development**

Judy Avila, Juvenile Services  
Erin Dixon, Health Department

**Essentials of Personal Effectiveness**

Lisa Cairns, Reno Justice Court  
Nicholas Steuer, Community Service Department – Parks

Chair Lucey thanked the employees for taking advantage of the programs the County offered and thanked the department heads for allowing their staff to participate.

## **PROCLAMATIONS**

**17-0126**      **6A1** Proclaim heartfelt gratitude to the many staff and volunteers for their tremendous effort during and after the 2016 Little Valley Fire and the January 2017 Flooding.

Chair Lucey stated there was a series of tremendous events including fires, flooding, and massive snow, but that there were a number of emergency groups and response teams that supported the County throughout. Chair Lucey read and presented the Proclamation to Zanny Marsh, Executive Director of American Red Cross, among others.

Chair Lucey stated Governor Brian Sandoval announced the County was declared a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster area and would receive funds to pay for some of the disaster relief. He presented a YouTube video entitled Emergency Relief and thanked the Communications Department for putting it together.

Zanny Marsh, Executive Director of American Red Cross of Northern Nevada, thanked the Board on behalf of more than 200 volunteers and six paid employees for the recognition. She echoed the comments of Aaron Kenneston, County Emergency Manager, in the video saying the joint effort saved lives and protected property. Bob Miller, Emergency Coordinator for Amateur Radio Emergency Services, stated they were on call for the Little Valley Fire and for the flood event. On January 10 he received an email from Mr. Kenneston requesting they provide emergency communications between 911 dispatch in the Sutcliffe area due to the loss of their system and they maintained those communications for 36 hours. Jim Cain, Chairman of the Northern Nevada Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), provided business cards to the Board and offered services such as helping to sandbag and clean. Brian Cain, Hungry Valley Firefighter and VOAD member, stated he was sent out to Hungry Valley and Sutcliffe to sandbag and provide water during the flood. Chair Lucey thanked Governor Sandoval's office for their help and the current administration who offered funding to the area. He additionally thanked the Commissioners and the County Manager's office for their hard work.

**17-0127**      **6A2** Proclamation – February 21, 2017 is Brian and Linda Polian Day.

John Slaughter, County Manager, clarified the Proclamation was intended to honor Brian and Laura Polian.

Commissioner Berkbigler read and presented the Proclamation to Alice Ledesma on behalf of Brian and Laura Polian who were not present.

Alice Ledesma, Division Director of Social Services, explained how the Polians helped her department improve recruitment and retention efforts. She remarked the department's partnership with the university through the Board's support resulted in

increased attendees and more people getting licensed. Further it changed the way they considered recruiting for foster parenting. The partnership had most directly impacted relationships with the community. She attributed the change in direction to the department's relationship with the Polians. She commended them, saying they believed in the mission of the campaign and undertook all invitations with enthusiasm. They never shied from an interview invitation, they attended functions, and often visited with foster kids, which were all examples of support Ms. Ledesma had not seen before. She thanked the Board again on the Polians' behalf.

There was no public comment on the Proclamations listed above.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Items 6A1 to 6A2 be adopted.

### **DONATIONS**

**17-0128** **6B1** Accept Monetary Donations to Washoe County Regional Animal Services [totaling \$6,253.00] for the period of October 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016 to be used for the humane care and treatment of sick and/or injured, stray, abandoned, or at risk animals received; express appreciation for these thoughtful contributions; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the appropriate budget amendments. Animal Services. (All Commission Districts.)

**17-0129** **6B2** Accept a donation of approximately three hundred and fifty (350) aluminum frame glass windows [\$7,000 value] from the Washoe County Honorary Deputy Sheriff's Association to be used by the Washoe County Sheriff's Office for training purposes. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

**17-0130** **6B3** Accept Burning Man donations of [\$13,500.00] for Gerlach Combination Fire Department personnel costs during the festival. Manager. (Commission District 5.)

There was no public comment on the donations listed above.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Berkgigler, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Items 6B1 to 6B3 be adopted.

**17-0131**      **AGENDA ITEM 7** Discussion and direction to staff regarding legislation or legislative issues proposed by legislators, by Washoe County or by other entities permitted by the Nevada State Legislature to submit bill draft requests, or such legislative issues as may be deemed by the Chair or the Board to be of critical significance to Washoe County. Manager. (All Commission Districts.)

Jamie Rodriguez, Management Analyst with the Manager's Office, stated the hearings of bills were in the early phase and more detailed updates would be forthcoming. She mentioned about 450 bills had been introduced of which staff was tracking about 250. She noted the five bills the Commission asked her to track had had little movement. She requested direction about how to proceed with Assembly Bill 140 (AB140), the bill revising the boundary line between Washoe and Carson Counties.

John Slaughter, County Manager, explained the bill, requested by Assemblyman Al Kramer, involved 12 properties on the southernmost Washoe County border. He indicated staff was concerned about the precedent this could set; in the past, boundary change requests all involved vacant land. He expressed concern that property owners could change counties prompted by service issues and suggested Washoe County could address those issues. Chair Lucey acknowledged there were challenges in servicing the owners of the Duck Hill area but agreed the precedent would not be favorable. He preferred addressing the service challenges rather than changing County lines. He maintained it was too early to take an official position on the bills. Ms. Rodriguez noted staff was scheduled to give a presentation at the County to the Assembly Government Affairs Committee on March 7th.

Mr. Slaughter interrupted, revealing the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency approved a legislative memorandum of cooperation and he received a request from the executive director of Regional Planning to be reviewed by the Board. He was waiting for answers on questions he had posed about the last time a memorandum was approved regionally and about the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) process.

When asked by Chair Lucey about AB43, Ms. Rodriguez replied it had been referred to committee but it was not yet scheduled for a hearing. Mr. Slaughter clarified this was the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) bill and Ms. Rodriguez stated Assembly Taxation and Senate Revenue and Economic Development did joint hearings on the topic of tax abatements but these were largely educational. Chair Lucey inquired whether Washoe County was planning to testify on behalf of the NACO bills, to which Mr. Slaughter responded it was being considered. He assumed the bill would have a long life and noted staff would come to the Board with recommendations on positions and testimony when they felt it was appropriate.

Commissioner Berkbigler voiced concern about the number of rules that had been waived at the session. She warned there might not be adequate notification to brief the Board on legislative issues that came up and asked Mr. Slaughter how that problem could be handled. Mr. Slaughter reminded the Board they had approved a set of

legislative principles that staff used for guidance in those situations. He also noted as County Manager he had authority to make decisions in consultation with the County's legislative liaison. It was possible staff could testify on a position and tell the Board after the fact; if the testimony did not represent the Board's position, they would correct it.

There was no public comment on this item.

**17-0132      AGENDA ITEM 8 Public Comment.**

There was no public comment.

**17-0133      AGENDA ITEM 9 Announcements/Reports.**

Upon request by Commissioner Berkbigler, Agenda Item 9 was reopened. She noted Lake Tahoe had gone up 4 feet as of a February 20, 2017 report, which was about double a normal year. She noted the lake could rise another four feet when the snowpack melted. This could affect Washoe County not only because dam controlled releases would affect the Truckee River, but also because they had to ensure lakefront properties would not flood. She also announced a section of highway 50 near Bridal Veil Falls had collapsed into a ravine. Commissioner Hartung affirmed each foot Lake Tahoe rose was equivalent to 122,400 acre feet of water, or 10,200 acre feet per inch of rise.

There was no public comment or action taken on this item.

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**11:51 a.m.** There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

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**BOB LUCEY**, Chair  
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

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

*Minutes Prepared by:  
Derek Sonderfan, Deputy County Clerk*