

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

MAY 16, 2017

PRESENT:

Bob Lucey, Chair
Marsha Berkbigler, Vice Chair
Vaughn Hartung, Commissioner

Nancy Parent, County Clerk
John Slaughter, County Manager
David Watts-Vial, Deputy District Attorney

ABSENT:

Kitty Jung, Commissioner
Jeanne Herman, Commissioner

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:26 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:

17-0377 AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.

Mr. George McNally stated he was the directing attorney for the Senior Law Project, which was a federally funded non-profit legal aid clinic that served seniors with various legal issues. He said he wanted to bring awareness of the free Senior Law Project to the community. He noted he was an attorney for 40 years and had spent the past three years working with seniors. He complimented the Social Services staff who worked with the seniors on a daily basis and helped them obtain assistance. He said on Monday morning four seniors came in with emergencies due to being evicted from their homes; they needed a place to live and feared they would be homeless. He asked the Board to address the housing crisis and homeless issues.

Mr. Sam Dehne spoke regarding proclamations, the Robert and Peter Lissner's contributions, and the media not being allowed to write the truth.

Ms. Tammy Holt-Still provided handouts, which were placed on file with the Clerk. She stated the approval of permit fees to be waived for residents in Lemmon Valley had not been addressed. She was concerned about discussions she heard related to the possibility of the Hesco Barrier System failing and wondered why the County was not utilizing the recommendations she presented to the Board. She noted after waiting 54 days, she finally received the accounting for the expenses related to the Lemmon Valley

flooding. She spoke regarding federal grants that were available for the flood victims and wondered why the County was not applying for them. She talked about her First Amendment rights and said her rights were violated in the previous meeting.

Ms. Elise Weatherly thanked the Commissioners for the work they did for the County. She spoke regarding limited financial resources within the County, a woman from the El Dorado Casino, and why God was dismissed from the Jan Evans Juvenile Detention Center.

Ms. Cathy Brandhorst spoke about matters of concern to herself.

Mr. Danny Cleous spoke regarding people being hit by speeding cars. He said he was thankful for people like Tammy Holt-Still who spoke for the people in her community. He talked about past hydrology reports and stated if issues had been addressed previously, the catastrophic event would not have occurred in Lemmon Valley.

Ms. Donna Robinson stated she bought her house 25 years ago and it was currently red tagged. She stated it was not her fault her house was built on a dry lakebed. She was thankful the County was paying for an apartment for her; otherwise, she would have no choice but to live in her condemned home. She was upset about the comments made during the previous meeting and she noted there was a lack of communication between the County and the Lemmon Valley residents.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – 8A

17-0378 **8A** Acknowledge receipt of the 35th consecutive annual Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for the County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016. Comptroller. (All Commission Districts.)

Comptroller Cathy Hill thanked the Board for allowing her to publicly acknowledge the receipt of the 35th annual consecutive award for Excellence in Financial Reporting. She stated the award was significant because in September the department received the 34th annual award and now 8 months later, during a period of being short staffed, they received the 35th annual award. She said it was proof the staff in the Comptroller's Office did not allow quality to diminish and they worked hard to continue the tradition of excellence. She was proud of staff and she thought the County should be as well. She invited staff to introduce themselves.

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

17-0379 **AGENDA ITEM 4** Introduction of new Washoe County Employees.

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

- Irene Dominguez, Sheriff’s Office
- Steven Grosz, Community Services Department
- Shawn Keating, Community Services Department
- Rebecca L. Nelson, Sheriff’s Office
- Lindarae Ohlson, Comptroller
- Dana Searcy, Manager’s Office
- Darby Stienmetz, Sheriff’s Office
- Amy Ventetuolo, Manager’s Office
- Helena Williams, Social Services

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

17-0380 **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

Zulma Reyes, Public Defenders

Essentials of SAP for Financial Staff

Kimberly Paholke, Truckee Meadow Fire Protection District

Essentials of Management Development

Kristen Ryan, Library

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PROCLAMATIONS

17-0381 **6A** Proclamation – Proclaim May 2017 as Older Americans Month.

Commissioner Berkbigler read and presented the Proclamation to Ken Retterath and Donna Clontz.

Social Services Division Director Ken Retterath stated seniors were a growing population in the County. He noted there were more than 80,000 seniors in Washoe County and by the year 2020 he expected there would be more than 100,000

seniors. He said this was the kick-off of Older Americans Month and the theme for the year was Aging Out Loud. He said their goal was for seniors to strive for wellness by staying active and improving their health. He said it was important for seniors to know their rights and encouraged them to utilize the free Senior Law Project for legal issues. He hoped seniors would explore new things in life such as getting a college degree and following their dreams.

Senior Advisory Committee Member Ms. Donna Clontz stated many volunteer hours were put into this year's program. She said Aging Out Loud was the theme and more than 70 events were created. She indicated each Commissioner was provided a booklet about the events and additional information about the program. She noted 35 or 40 of the events had already occurred but an event coming up was about the law, which she thought was great considering the recent landlord-tenant issues that many seniors were facing. She talked about the Stuff a Bus event that would be held on May 30th at the Greater Nevada Field. She noted there were donation barrels at the senior center and throughout the County and items needed were sweatpants, slippers, socks and hygiene items. She stated on the day of the event, donors could purchase a ticket to a Reno Ace's Baseball game or a Reno 1868 FC Soccer game and receive a voucher for a free ticket. She thanked the people who had assisted with the program and said the volunteers were the people who made this happen. She thanked Social Services Director Amber Howell, Community Outreach Coordinator Chris Ciarlo, Communications Director Nancy Leuenhagen, Program Assistant Len Reidenbaugh, Office Assistant II Sandra Vasquez, Office Assistant II Crissy Lessard and Mr. Retterath. Ms. Clontz provided documents, which were placed on file with the Clerk.

17-0382 **6B** Proclamation – Proclaim May 15, 2017 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and May 11-May 17, 2017 as National Police Week.

County Manager John Slaughter corrected the date by stating May 15th to May 17th was National Police Week.

Commissioner Hartung read and presented the Proclamation to Sheriff's Office representatives.

17-0383 **6C** Proclamation - Proclaim May 2017 as Wildfire Awareness Month.

Commissioner Hartung read and presented the Proclamation to Fire Chief Charles Moore, Ed Smith, Jamie Roice-Gomes and Chief Ryan Sommers.

Cooperative Extension Area Natural Resources Specialist Mr. Ed Smith said Nevada Wildfire Awareness Month was an interagency effort coordinated by Cooperative Extension. He stated it was a statewide event and last year there were more than 150 activities and events statewide. He noted the events were to promote awareness and action by Nevada residents who lived in wildfire prone areas. He said the theme for this year's event was Wildfire: prepare, anticipate, evacuate. He thanked the County for

the proclamation and said the program helped keep wildfire awareness in the forefront for residents.

Cooperative Extension Outreach Coordinator Ms. Jamie Roice-Gomes said the Junk the Juniper event would be held on May 20th at the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Silver Lake Station and residents could bring woody vegetation to be placed in a chipping machine. She stated attendees could receive a discount coupon from Moana Nursery. She presented the Commissioners with a wildfire bandana printed with an evacuation checklist. She said it would make people aware of what was needed in an evacuation and could be used for face protection if smoke was present.

TMFPD Chief Moore thanked the Board for the proclamation.

17-0384 **6D** Proclamation - Proclaim May 21-27, 2017 as Emergency Medical Services Week.

Commissioner Hartung read and presented the Proclamation to Christina Conti and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) representatives.

Health District EMS Program Manager Ms. Christina Conti said on behalf of the EMS Oversight Program and partners she thanked the Board for the proclamation. She said there were four agencies represented: the Reno Fire Department; the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority, the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District. She stated the County was proud to work with these agencies.

17-0385 **6E** Proclamation - Proclaim May 16, 2017 as Robert and Peter Lissner Day.

Commissioner Berkbigler read and presented the Proclamation to Robert Lissner and Peter Lissner.

Commissioner Berkbigler stated the Lissners donated so much to the community and thanked them for their contributions.

Mr. Peter Lissner thanked the Board for the recognition.

Mr. Robert Lissner thanked the Board for the recognition and thanked the Commissioners for the many hours they worked.

Commissioner Hartung said the Lissners had no idea of the impact they had on the community and thanked them for their contributions.

Social Services Division Director Ken Retterath thanked the Lissners for the donation on behalf of Social Services.

17-0386 **6F** Proclamation – Proclaim May 21-27, 2017 is National Public Works Week.

Chair Lucey read and presented the Proclamation to the Community Services Department staff.

Community Services Department Division Director Eric Crump spoke about the teamwork behind the efforts to mitigate the flooding in the community.

Community Services Department Division Director of Engineering Dwayne Smith thanked the Board for the proclamation. He stated a successful municipality was required to employ great workers and he was proud of staff.

Commissioner Berkgigler was appreciative for the work staff did in Lemmon Valley, Caughlin Ranch, South Valleys, Hidden Valley and Lake Tahoe. She thanked the entire Public Works Department for their hard work.

Chair Lucey said he was amazed to learn there were 225 employees in the Community Service Department and thanked them for keeping the County intact.

17-0387 **6G** Proclamation - Proclaim June 2017 as Lake Tahoe Wildfire Awareness Month.

Commissioner Berkgigler read and presented the Proclamation to Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore, Ed Smith from Cooperative Extension, Jamie Roice from Living with Fire and North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District Chief Ryan Sommers.

North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District Chief Ryan Sommers thanked the Board for the proclamation. He said the Tahoe Basin was unique and indicated it was a challenging area for wild fires.

17-0388 **6H** Proclamation - Proclamation of Recognition for 80 years of National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Achievements.

Chair Lucey read and presented the Proclamation to Chrissy Menicucci, Cheryl Daile, Cheryl Davidek, Amy Saathof, Sarah Grabowska and Victoria Lebya.

Chair Lucey stated the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) was a local organization and they were celebrating their 80th year of providing education for juvenile and family court justices. He noted his wife was a family court attorney and saw the struggles of families and children in a courtroom. He stated the NCJFCJ made education for justices, attorneys and individuals within the community easier.

NCJFCJ Director of Development Chrissy Menicucci stated Chief Executive Officer Joey Orduna-Hastings regretted she could not be present to accept this proclamation. She introduced the NCJFCJ staff members and presented the Commissioners with a token of appreciation.

There was no public comment on the Proclamations listed above.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Berkbigler, which motion duly carried with Commissioner's Jung and Herman absent, it was ordered that Agenda Items 6A to 6H be adopted.

DONATIONS

17-0389 **7A** Accept cash donations in the amount of [\$34,069.08], retroactively for the period July 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 and direct the Comptroller to make the appropriate budget amendments. Social Services. (All Commission Districts.)

17-0390 **7B1** Accept a donation of a vehicle [estimated value of \$3,500] from a private citizen for use by the Sheriff's Office in undercover and investigative operations. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

17-0391 **7B2** Accept a donation [\$25.00] from Robert and Diana Welles to the County of Washoe on behalf of the Washoe County Sheriff's Office to purchase equipment for the K-9 Unit and authorize Comptroller's Office to make the appropriate budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

17-0392 **7B3** Accept a donation of a vehicle [estimated value is \$32,595] from the United States Marshals Service for use by the Sheriff's Office in undercover fugitive operations. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

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

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner's Jung and Herman absent, it was ordered that Agenda Items 7A to 7B3 be adopted.

17-0393 **AGENDA ITEM 9** 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.)

County Manager John Slaughter requested Agenda Items 9 and 10 be heard together.

Management Services Director Al Rogers reported for week 14 of the legislative session and detailed the report from the previous week. He reviewed his report and displayed the bills that the Board supported, were neutral about, were opposed to and bills they were watching. He stated Senate Bill (SB)469, was related to budgeted ending fund balances and he noted that bill proposed the ending fund balance would be reduced from 25 percent to 16.67 percent. He said Friday at midnight, the bills that were not exempt were required to move out of the second committee, which would narrow the bills list. He noted staff had been working diligently to monitor the bills. He reviewed the bills of interest and he indicated there were two bills that the Board needed to take a position on. He said AB271 related to collective bargaining and he suggested the Board take the position to oppose this bill. He stated SB169 was related to sexual offenses and sexual offense kits and he suggested the Board take a neutral position with concerns regarding fiscal impact. He reviewed the additional bills that staff continued to watch. Mr. Rogers provided documents, which were placed on file with the Clerk.

Commissioner Hartung spoke regarding SB469 and thought this bill encouraged the County to spend money instead of saving for catastrophic issues. He did not agree with forcing the reduction of the budgeted ending fund balance because it could put the County in a difficult financial position.

Commissioner Berkbigler thought staff could research what other local governments were doing related to SB469 and requested information to be brought back to the Board. She asked about SB487, which would impose an excise tax on the sale of marijuana and marijuana related products. She stated it allowed local governments to add a three percent tax on cultivation, production and retail marijuana. She asked if that was in addition to the 15 percent tax from the ballot question and the Governors 10 percent tax dedicated to education.

Mr. Rogers stated he could not be certain that was correct but he would clarify the information and bring it back to the Board.

Commissioner Berkbigler thought the County should receive benefits from the sale of recreational marijuana, but she was concerned that a 28 percent tax would defeat the purpose of the bill. She stated the goal was an attempt to eliminate illegal marijuana sales but she thought a high tax would push people to the black market. She said AB379, the Parks bill, would not affect the existing recreational facilities and she thought General Improvement Districts would be excluded. She wanted information about AB379 brought back to the Board for clarity. She said AB120 proposed to create a residential school construction tax that would be approved by the Washoe County School District Board and she noted if it was presented to the County, the Board of County Commissioners would be required to enact the tax. She wanted more information about the bill and details about the disbursement of the funds.

Mr. Rogers stated discussions about AB120 took place but there was more to learn about the bill. He said when new development came in an impact fee would be included with building fees required. He stated more information would be brought back to the Board as it was acquired.

Commissioner Berkbigler said AB163 proposed to revise governing short-term loans. She did not see information related to the impact it would have on the County and its entities who utilized the short-term loans. She wanted information brought back to the Board at the next meeting.

Commissioner Hartung said AB120 proposed a developer would be required to pay an impact fee per dwelling unit. He wanted to ensure the impact fees were utilized in the neighborhood being developed, not for a different area.

Chair Lucey mentioned that SB315 came back with amendments to the language but the amendments were not significant enough to change the Board's position to oppose.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner's Jung and Herman absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 9 be accepted.

17-0394 **AGENDA ITEM 10** Discussion and direction to staff regarding legislation or legislative issues proposed by legislators, by Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District 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 of Fire Commissioners to be of critical significance to Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District. Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District. (All Commission Districts.)

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

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner's Jung and Herman absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be accepted.

17-0395 **AGENDA ITEM 11** Public Comment.

Ms. Donna Robinson said she had a conversation with Director of Community Services Dave Solaro about her frustrations with her flooded home in Lemmon Valley. She said she lived in Lemmon Valley for 25 years and her frustrations included costs incurred to move out of her home and to have her horses boarded. She

knew funding could not cover all the expenses and understood the Commissioners frustrations.

Mr. Danny Cleous said the state was known for ranching, farming, mining and gaming and he wondered why the industries resources were not being utilized. He noted in other areas of the state, miners and farmers were able to clear ditches and remove excess water. He said he continued to fight with his insurance company and was tired of coming to the County meetings to voice his frustrations.

Ms. Tammy Holt-Still said she heard from the last meeting that the Lemmon Valley residents were complaining about the lack of progress. She noted she was trying to help by providing recovery ideas to staff and residents. She stated she found available grants online that could help Lemmon Valley residents.

17-0396 AGENDA ITEM 12 Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Hartung was concerned about copper wire theft and wanted staff to research the laws for selling or recycling copper. He asked if a staff member could help the Lemmon Valley residents with their insurance issues by directing them toward available grants.

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12:30 p.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

BOB LUCEY, Chair
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

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

*Minutes Prepared by:
Doni Gassaway, Deputy County Clerk*