

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

PRESENT:

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

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

ABSENT

Kitty Jung, Commissioner

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:05 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:

Commissioner Hartung introduced Adylenn Trimble and stated she was in third grade at Spanish Springs Elementary School.

17-0751 **AGENDA ITEM 3** Public Comment.

Ms. Kathleen Shupp spoke in opposition of a proposed high school at the Wildcreek Golf Course. She said it would be up to certain agencies, but she wanted the golf course to remain. She asked the Board to encourage the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority to turn the management of the golf course over to private enterprise so the residents could retain the open space.

Ms. Darlene Hesse stated it was not a wise decision to build a school at the Wildcreek Golf Course. She said the location was in a flood plain and a school could not sustain flooding as a golf course could. She said she was in support of schools, but to tear down a golf course for one was not a wise decision. She was concerned about the 2,500 children that would be bussed into the area because traffic would be dramatically affected. She said an announcement was going to be released regarding a plan B and a plan C for the proposed high school. She was interested to hear what the other options were. She suggested the use of Bureau of Land Management land for the proposed new school.

Mr. Charles Mccubbins said there was so much vacant land and property that the proposed high school could be built on which would not include the destruction of a facility. He stated the school at that location would create environmental impacts. The traffic flow on McCarran Boulevard was currently congested and there was current construction on Pyramid Highway because of excessive traffic; adding the transportation of 2,500 children by car or school bus would create more traffic. He noted the location did not have the room to expand in any direction. He said golf courses drew people to the area. He stated the population in Reno was increasing and the majority were senior citizens who used golf as therapy. He encouraged the Board to make prudent decisions about the use of the land at Wildcreek Golf Course and to find a different location for the proposed school. He wanted the County to allow a private management company to run the golf course.

Ms. Tracy Hall said she went to a meeting at Lemmon Valley Elementary School for the proposed development. She stated the developer wanted to raise the land 10 feet but homeowners were not allowed to raise their land. She stated a buyout was the best option for her because raising her home would not solve the issue since her land was underwater. She said her home was too old and could not be moved. She noted a buyout was not going to occur fast enough for her. She asked the Board to be a hero to the Lemmon Valley residents and take care of their issues. She stated the lake was the problem and it needed to be addressed. She wanted the Board to show compassion and concern to resolve the issues with the 10 homes that were unlivable. She said the costs for her animals were more than \$200 per month and it was adding up.

Ms. Tammy Holt-Still stated she was concerned about a Commissioner who possibly swayed the Truckee River Flood Board not to assist the residents in Lemmon Valley. She said it was not that Commissioner's district but the Commissioner wanted everyone to pay taxes for floodwater. She spoke regarding proposed buyouts and she thought this could put residents who did not currently have a mortgage payment in a situation where they would have monthly payments. She noted relocating homes to an area that had previously flooded was not a safe solution. She stated the problems that needed to be addressed were: additional culverts crossing Lemmon Drive, culverts being properly maintained, Swan Lake should not be receiving effluent water from sewer plants, and the recommended amount of effluent needed to be maintained at the appropriate amount of water per day. She noted the County was in violation of a Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) regarding the placement of a treatment facility within the limits of a 100-year floodplain. She stated the flood was not considered a 100-year flood and the plant was breached. She wanted to see better results for the residents of Lemmon Valley. She provided a handout, which was placed on file with the Clerk.

Mr. William Puchert stated it had been seven months since the illegal sign was erected behind his home. He said the City of Reno just passed a law against new billboard signs. He noted in July, Code Enforcement issued a citation with an August 2nd deadline for corrective action. He assumed the citation had been ignored as the three previous citations had been. He stated it was time to take action because the unfinished sign swayed with the wind and the crossbars were becoming unattached and dangerous.

He said the sign was a hazard to residents and passing motorists. He asked if it would take a serious injury or a death to occur before action would be taken to resolve the issue. He noted he had not received the updates he requested. Staff told him the process had to play out, but it had been seven months and there were no resolutions. He stated the perpetrators intended to build nine signs in the area and to make them billboards. He said the signs were a danger and they needed to be removed. He said he hoped the Board would take action to help bring relief to the residents of Lemmon Valley. He provided a photo, which was placed on file with the Clerk.

17-0752 **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Herman wanted staff to allow construction companies to pump water out of Swan Lake at no cost to the County. She said the companies could use the water on construction sites. She wanted to ensure the victims of the Lemmon Valley floods were not charged permit fees on septic repairs. She said she donated \$5,000 of her discretionary funds to the Remote Area Medical (RAM) mobile outreach clinic event.

Commissioner Berkbigler said Mr. Puchert's comments were accurate about the possibility of the sign blowing down. She said she was driving in that area with the wind blowing and if a board came off the sign it would go right into traffic because it was so close to the Interstate. She wanted to hear a report about the status of the removal of the sign. She thought the sign had become dangerous to people and something needed to be done to protect the area residents and commuters.

Commissioner Hartung wanted options regarding the sign. He said if it was in violation it needed to be taken care of. He wanted assurance from staff that the Lemmon Valley permit fees were being waived and if they were not waived he wanted to know what the Board needed to do for that to occur. He thanked staff for the Lemmon Valley report at the previous meeting.

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

17-0753 **AGENDA ITEM 5** Introduction of new Washoe County Employees.

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

Manuel Coronado – Clerk
Sarah Harrell – Building and Safety
Jacquelyn King – Animal Services
Karen Larsen – District Attorney
William Mantle – District Attorney
Denae Mathias – Sheriff's Office
Courtney Smith – District Attorney
Lauren Wilson – District Attorney

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

- 17-0754** **AGENDA ITEM 6** Presentation of Excellence in Public Service Certificates honoring the following Washoe County employees who have completed essential employee development courses.

County Manager John Slaughter 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

Gloria Jimenez, District Attorney
Andrea Lee, District Attorney

Essentials of Management Development

Joy Betton, Library
Heather Condon, District Court
Julie Munoz, Public Administrator
Aurora Partridge, Library
Mary Pharis, District Attorney

Essentials for SAP for Financial Staff

Justin Norton, Medical Examiner's Office

Essentials for SAP for HR Rep

Justin Norton, Medical Examiner's Office

Essentials of Personal Effectiveness

Andrea Lee, District Attorney

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

PROCLAMATIONS

- 17-0755** **7A** Proclamation - Proclamation of Recognition of the FIRST Tech Challenge Team 11574 Sonic Screwdrivers. Manager. (All Commission Districts.)

Commissioner Berkbigler read and presented the Proclamation to the members of the FIRST Tech Challenge Team 11574 Sonic Screwdrivers.

Commissioner Berkbigler stated these children were younger than high school students and were brilliant young people.

The team members introduced themselves and said they would be performing a demonstration later in the meeting.

17-0756 **7B** Proclamation - Proclaim September 28, 2017 as a day in honor of The Committee to Aid Abused Women. Manager. (All Commission Districts.)

Commissioner Berkbigler read and presented the Proclamation to Denise Yoxsimer, Executive Director of Committee to Aid Abused Women (CAAW).

Ms. Yoxsimer thanked the Board for the proclamation and invited everyone to attend the 40th Anniversary event on September 28th at the Atlantis Casino. She said the keynote speaker would be Leslie Morgan Steiner the New York Times bestselling author of *Crazy Love*, which was her personal account of her experience with domestic violence. She thanked the Commissioners for recognizing the organization, their history and domestic violence.

17-0757 **7C** Proclamation - Proclaim October 2017 as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Awareness Month. Manager. (All Commission Districts.)

Chair Lucey read and presented the Proclamation to Keegan and Amber Howell.

Chair Lucey said Keegan was his son's friend from school. He expressed as a father with another baby on the way, this issue was something that scared everyone especially new parents. Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) was a real threat and many parents laid awake worrying about it. He said the County wanted to recognize this as an issue and provide awareness to parents and caregivers.

Director of the Human Services Agency (HSA) Amber Howell said this was not only an important topic to her as the Director of the HSA, but equally as important as a mother of three boys. She thanked the Board for its support. The HSA asked everyone to practice the ABC's: A – alone, always put a baby to sleep alone; B – back, always put a baby to sleep on its back; and C – crib, always put a baby to sleep in a crib. She said the 17 deaths from unsafe sleep occurrences in Washoe County were 100 percent preventable. She said they believed and encouraged breast-feeding, bonding, the importance of healthy skin-to-skin contact and unconditional love to an infant. She wanted to acknowledge Melissa Faul, the statewide child fatality specialist, and thank her and the Child and Family Services for their support, assistance and funding as well as for providing education to decrease the number of unsafe sleep deaths. She said beginning October 2nd, the HSA was scheduled to launch a media and social awareness campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of SIDS and ways to prevent it through safe sleep practices.

17-0758 **7D** Proclamation - Proclaim October 11, 2017 as International Walk To School Day. Manager. (All Commission Districts.)

Commissioner Hartung read and presented the Proclamation to Officer Roger Markesen.

Officer Markesen stated he would be taking over for Officer MJ Cloud with the Safe Routes to School program. He said school was back in session and on a good note there were more children walking or riding their bikes to school. He said on a bad note there had been five vehicle versus pedestrian or bicycle accidents this year. He stated the Safe Routes to School single day events helped promote safe routes to school. He invited the Board and audience to attend the International Walk to School Day on October 11th. He said it was a week earlier for other school districts, but Washoe County School District was fortunate enough to have a fall break that week. He noted Chair Lucey agreed to walk with the children starting at My Favorite Muffin going to Mount Rose Elementary School. He said other dignitaries would be present also. He thanked the Board for its support.

Chair Lucey challenged all the Commissioners and elected officials to get out and walk to school with the kids. He said ensuring children's safety and driver awareness was important.

There was no public comment on the Proclamations listed above.

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

DONATIONS

- 17-0759** **8A** Accept Burning Man donation of [\$8,500.00] for Gerlach Combination Fire Department personnel costs during the 2017 Burning Man festival. Manager. (Commission District 5.)
- 17-0760** **8B** Accept \$45,850 in donation for the District Attorney's Office Child Advocacy Center equipment, operational, and program needs from 5 individual and organizational donors and authorize Comptroller to make appropriate budget adjustments. District Attorney. (All Commission Districts.)
- 17-0761** **8C** Accept Monetary Donations to Washoe County Regional Animal Services totaling \$8,611.99 for the period of April 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017 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.)

On the call for public comment, Cathy Brandhorst spoke about matters of concern to herself related to Agenda Item 8A.

District Attorney Chris Hicks thanked the Board for their recognition of the donations received. He said the daily impact the Child Advocacy Center had on the community and child victims of abuse could not be overstated. The services and treatment child victims were receiving and the sentences that were being handed down to child sexual predators were unprecedented because of the Child Advocacy Center. The mission was to ensure child safety in a friendly environment for the purpose of minimizing trauma, providing advocacy and supporting effective investigations and prosecutions. He said he was proud to say they were striving to meet that mission every day. Sadly, staff underestimated the need for the Child Advocacy Center in the community when they started the program. He noted they had already outgrown their building, were understaffed and fell short on the needed resources for child victims. He said that was why these amazing donations were so important to the program. He stated the size of the donation did not matter, it all made a difference to the program. He reviewed the donations and highlighted donations from Cathleen and Richard Trachock and the Mason T. Ortiz Foundation. He stated the Mason T. Ortiz foundation was named after a young man who lost his life at 16 years of age. He said Mr. Ortiz was one of the finest human beings he had ever met and the foundation strived to make differences in children's lives. He stated the Hot August Night Foundation provided so much in the community by providing scholarships and resources for education to assist in-need or at-risk children in the community. He spoke about Transforming Youth Recovery, which was a local foundation dedicated to improving the way society addressed substance abuse. He said Renown Health did a lot for the community and noted the Community Board Liaison Keith Fuetsch was present to represent Renown Health. He stated Renown's vision was a healthy community and that was the Child Advocacy Center's focus. He thanked all the donors for their generous donations and said each donation would help make every child in the community safer.

Chair Lucey thanked the people who donated to the Child Advocacy Center. He commended Mr. Hicks for his leadership.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Items 8A to 8C be accepted.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – 9A1 THROUGH 9A2

17-0762 **9A1** Acknowledge Washoe County Purchasing Office receipt of its 22nd annual Achievement in Excellence in Procurement Award from the National Purchasing Institute for the year ended June 30, 2017. Comptroller. (All Commission Districts.)

17-0763 **9A2** Acknowledge receipt of the Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award (PAFR) from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for the County's Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016. Comptroller. (All Commission Districts.)

County Manager John Slaughter stated both of the consent agenda items were awards for the Comptroller's Office and Accounting Manager Russ Morgan was present to acknowledge the awards.

Mr. Morgan stated Comptroller Cathy Hill was unable to be present to acknowledge the awards. He said the Comptroller's Office staff was well aware of the 22 year milestone of purchasing awards, which was a great honor. He noted the Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award (PAFR) was something new from the Government Finance Officers Association and the department had a long running streak of more than 30 years on the comprehensive annual report. He noted the department planned to make the PAFR a similarly long running award. He stated it condensed a 250 page document into a small comprehensive report of five pages or less. He said he was very proud to accept the awards on behalf of the Comptroller's Office.

Chair Lucey said he was delighted to honor the Comptroller's Office for the awards. He thanked Mr. Morgan and asked him to relay the Board's gratitude to the entire department for their hard work and commitment.

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

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 9A1 through 9A2 be approved. Any and all Resolutions or Interlocal Agreements pertinent to Consent Agenda Items 9A1 through 9A2 are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

17-0764 **AGENDA ITEM 10** Appearance: Coach Patti Poston and Co-Coach Kristen Bubano (2016-17 Nevada State Champions) FIRST Tech Challenge Team 11574 Sonic Screwdrivers. Presentation and update on FIRST, FIRST Programs, FTC game, Robot demonstration, and Community Outreach. [10 minutes.]

County Manager John Slaughter stated Coach Patti Poston and Co-Coach Kristen Bubano along with the 2016-17 Nevada State Champions, the Sonic Screwdrivers were going to conduct a demonstration of the robot they built.

The For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (First) Tech Challenge Team 11574 Sonic Screwdrivers consisted of four young ladies: Sophia Burbano, captain, builder and programmer; Sara Sommer, main programmer and computer aided design (CAD); Genevieve Burbano, business manager, programmer, builder and CAD; and Hannah Sommer, the newest member of the team who hoped to learn about building.

The FIRST Tech Challenge Team conducted a PowerPoint presentation about who they were, what they did and how they did it. They explained the difference between last year's and this year's competitions. They spoke regarding their goals, which

included helping others learn about Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM), teaching the many aspects of FIRST and advancing to an international competition. They conducted a demonstration with the robot and explained the unique wheels could go in any direction. They reviewed the process for their competition and noted they had to program the robot for an autonomous period in addition to remotely driving the robot. They thanked the Board for the opportunity conduct their present. The team provided the PowerPoint presentation, which was placed on file with the Clerk.

Chair Lucey stated the demonstration was extremely impressive and to learn to build and run a robot like this at such a young age was amazing. He said he envisioned bright futures for all of the young ladies. He was excited to learn that all the girls lived within his district.

Commissioner Berkbigler thanked the parents of the girls for their support and leadership. She said she looked forward to seeing great things come from the young ladies.

Commissioner Hartung stated the coaches did a great job keeping the girls on track. He said the ideas they could come up with in the future would be unlimited. He explained the girls were the future generation and the answer to many problems ahead. He encouraged them to continue down this road and said they would not regret their decisions. He said the University of Nevada, Reno had a new college of engineering building that was waiting for them.

Commissioner Herman stated she was proud of the girls and they were setting a great example.

County Manager John Slaughter stated the library staff at the South Library was the first to notice the FIRST team.

Chair Lucey said the STEM program offered at the South Library was a great program. He said he fully supported the program and wanted to see more young people participate. He agreed the girls all had bright futures ahead of them.

Commissioner Hartung explained the next appearance would be a young lady who received a grant called the Youth Engaged in Service (YES) grant but there was an aspect of the grant for Youth Engaged in Science. He encouraged the team to apply for that grant.

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

17-0765 **AGENDA ITEM 11** Appearance: Adylenn Trimble. Presentation and update to the Board of County Commissioners, regarding her grant projects. [10 minutes.]

Commissioner Hartung said Adylenn Trimble came to his attention when

she was involved in a number of community-oriented projects. He said she was the motivation for the Youth Engaged in Service (YES) grant. He noted the County provided her with a \$2,500 grant and asked her to go out to the community and make a difference in a number of places. He said she would explain what she did with the money and how she made a difference in the community.

Ms. Trimble said she was eight years old and in the third grade at Spanish Springs Elementary School. She stated she had a YES Grant Impact Report to present to the County Commissioners. She read the PowerPoint Presentation and highlighted whom the recipients of the grant money were and what the purchases were. She stated she would be applying for the 2017 Disney Youth Service America (YSA) Friends for Change Grant to assist her Project Homeless Helpers program. She said her plan was to make care packages to hand out at the homeless shelter. She stated if she received the grant money, she would use the money for reusable bags for the care packages, water, hand warmers, razors, shaving cream and fresh fruit. She thanked the Board, Mayor Hillary Schieve, Spanish Springs Elementary School Principal Jim Verdi, Spanish Springs Counselor Trudie Kibala, her family and her school for all the support. She provided the PowerPoint presentation, which was placed on file with the Clerk.

Chair Lucey congratulated Ms. Trimble for her amazing work. He said she had accomplished so much in a short period of time. He said through the leadership of Commissioner Hartung she was the first recipient of the YES grant and it affected many people in many ways. He said she set the gold standard of what the YES grant meant. He thanked her for her time and her commitment to helping people.

Commissioner Berkbigler said Ms. Trimble was a special young lady. She thanked her and asked her to continue to help others.

Commissioner Herman said Ms. Trimble had set a great example at her school and in the community.

Commissioner Hartung stated he was extremely impressed with Ms. Trimble before she received the YES Grant. He noted she was an amazing young person and he commended her parents who helped her with the projects. He said people forgot how important it was for parents to encourage young people.

17-0766 **AGENDA ITEM 12** Update on Wildland Fire Season. Manager and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District. (All Commission Districts.)

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Chief Charles Moore stated there were three simultaneous fires the day before: the Cone fire above Verdi; the Woodchuck fire; and a one-acre fire in Sun Valley, which was extinguished without incident. He said he was grateful for the cooperation of all the regional partners, not only firefighters, but also law enforcement and the County Manager's Office who helped with communications. He stated it was getting late in the season but the area was still in danger of fire and might continue to be until late October or even early November. He

noted there would be wind events over the next few days. He thanked staff for working so hard and for keeping the fires away from the nearby homes. He showed a video of helicopters dropping water on a fire just behind Aspen Glen. He said they were worried about the flame activity as it was getting close to the homes. He noted there were firefighters on the hill, but the water drops were the last chance to keep the fire out of Aspen Glen. He said the winds were erratic, but it came to a successful conclusion.

Chair Lucey stated he had the opportunity to meet with County Manager John Slaughter at Aspen Glen. He thanked Chief Moore and his staff for their quick response. He thanked the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, the Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District and the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District for their support. He said when the TMFPD was called into action they acted rapidly.

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

17-0767 **AGENDA ITEM 13** Public Comment.

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

Mr. Danny Cleous said he had not been speaking much lately because he had been sitting, watching and listening to what people were saying. He stated he did not see his granddaughter at his house as much as he would like because of the speeding cars on his street. He said the speeding cars were worse during the air races because people were driving down his street and were lost due to the partial closure of Lemmon Drive. He noted Lemmon Valley needed the presence of more Sheriffs. He thought speeding would not happen if there were more patrol cars in the area. He said Division Director of Engineering and Capital Projects Dwayne Smith said some things in his presentation that were excellent. The Lemmon Valley residents had been telling the Board about the issues in Lemmon Valley for months. He was glad the Board heard the same issues from Mr. Smith. He said the County needed to live by the motto of “Working Together Regionally” as stated on the wall in the County Chambers. He said he was waiting to see what resolutions would happen.

17-0768 **AGENDA ITEM 14** Announcements/Reports.

There were no comments from the Commissioners or the County Manager.

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

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12:01 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*