

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

APRIL 16, 2019

PRESENT:

**Vaughn Hartung, Chair**  
**Bob Lucey, Vice Chair**  
**Kitty Jung, Commissioner**

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

ABSENT:

**Marsha Berkbigler, Commissioner**  
**Jeanne Herman, Commissioner**

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 11:27 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:

**19-0277      AGENDA ITEM 3 Introduction of new Washoe County Employees.**

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

Rachel Cord, Health Department  
Dawn Edwards, Human Services Agency  
James Jacob, Technology Services  
Christabell Sotelo-Zecana, Health Department  
Sean Thaler, Technology Services  
Brandon Faber, Animal Services  
Tracy Bowles, Public Guardian's Office

Chair Hartung welcomed the new employees.

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

**19-0278**      **AGENDA ITEM 4** Presentation of Excellence in Public Service Certificates honoring the following Washoe County employees who have completed essential employee development courses.

County Manager John Slaughter said Washoe County encouraged life-long learning and the professional development of all employees. He explained the Excellence in Public Service program administered by the Human Resources Department was a series of certificate programs designed to support employee development and performance. The courses were completed over a two-year period and demonstrated employees' commitment to continuous personal and professional improvement and Washoe County's journey of excellence.

Mr. Slaughter recognized the following employees:

**Essentials of SAP for Financial Staff**

Sue Councilman, District Attorney's Office

**Essentials of High Performing Teams**

Katherine Stark, Community Services Department

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

**19-0279**      **AGENDA ITEM 5** Public Comment.

Ms. Tammy Holt-Still said County staff indicated Swan Lake was 1,600 acres but Wikipedia said it was 1,800 acres. She noted the Lemmon Valley water treatment plant was licensed to release .33 million gallons of effluent into Swan Lake per day but the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection reported over 60,000 gallons of effluent were being released per day. She said the Stead sewer plant was permitted to release 2.5 million gallons per day, which would equal 2,094 acre feet of water going into the lake during the winter months. She spoke about how the effluent release, the impervious ground, and water being injected into the ground all contributed to increasing the lake's diameter. She displayed a document, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk.

Ms. Elise Weatherly thanked Office Support Specialist Fidel Salas for directing her to the listing for the County Manager position on the County website. She said she did not know how the Board would fill the position and indicated she would apply. She spoke about local churches, telling the truth as a community, the issues in Lemmon Valley, County employees, the wages for firefighters and police officers, and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

**19-0280**      **AGENDA ITEM 6** Announcements/Reports.

Chair Hartung spoke to County Manager John Slaughter about his letter of resignation. He requested staff provide guidelines about the process for filling the position. He thought there were two general options: advertise locally or conduct a national search. He said he would prefer to start by advertising locally and, if a successful candidate could not be found, the County could spend \$250,000 for a national search. He requested staff provide the search information at the next Board meeting.

Commissioner Jung partially agreed with Chair Hartung. She thought the Board needed to discuss what qualifications they would look for in a candidate. She believed a national search was the best idea. She stated Reno was presently the place everyone wanted to live while Washoe County was a difficult sell when the previous search was performed. She thought County divisions were staffed with the best employees so many key needs were being met by experts. She believed the Board needed to decide on the necessary qualifications for the new County Manager for the next five years. She stated she wanted a candidate who had a Master's degree in Public Administration or equivalent experience. She said a national search would give the new County Manager credibility with local, state, and national peers. It would demonstrate to others that the new County Manager was fully vetted and it would provide a sense of confidence and security.

Commissioner Jung thought the County could get an exceptional candidate. She indicated she was not disparaging Mr. Slaughter, who knew the difficult condition of the County when he accepted the position. He had the institutional knowledge and he took charge, doing exactly what was needed. She noted Mr. Slaughter had not been her top choice based on his resume alone but he was able to provide answers about every area of expertise during the interview. She said they used a scientifically-based rubric to rank candidates during the previous search and it lent her some objectivity. She encouraged local, regional, and statewide candidates to apply. She indicated the County had been developing the various divisions of the County and promoting individuals who were the best fit based on the recommendations of the County Manager. She agreed with Chair Hartung about the need to discuss the search as soon as possible because Mr. Slaughter was leaving on June 14. She preferred County figureheads not move into the Manager position, although they could apply if they wanted to. She did not think the County needed a finance person or a planner. She thought the County needed a public administrator who would know how to deploy expert staff appropriately.

Commissioner Lucey said he was not on the Board during the previous search and Mr. Slaughter was the only Manager he had worked with. He said it had been very beneficial to work with him. He noted Mr. Slaughter was a conduit between the Board and staff and was very helpful with a number of challenging issues the County had to deal with over the past few years. He said Mr. Slaughter would be missed and losing an individual of his stature would be difficult.

Commissioner Lucey agreed with Commissioner Jung and Chair Hartung about the item needing to be agendized as soon as possible so the Board could discuss the search process and the criteria for the right applicant. He agreed with Commissioner Jung that the best candidate would rise to the top. He noted the County Manager's role was just as active as the Commissioners' role, if not more so. The Manager ran a very large County with a robust budget and was often the person in front of the cameras for the County. They were always on call and their family would suffer. With those things in mind, he thought the Board needed to discuss what was needed going forward. He said it was an opportunity to find a great candidate to help the Board transition to the next iteration of Washoe County/Reno/Sparks area. He noted the Manager would work with elected officials who ran big departments. The dichotomy needed to be discussed because a good candidate for City Manager might not have the qualifications to be County Manager.

Chair Hartung clarified he asked for an agenda item for the Board to decide on the process that would be used for the search. He thought there were basically three choices: a local search initiated by Human Resources, a local search followed by a national search, or a national search only.

Commissioner Jung said her earlier comments provided more options for the search and asked staff to contact her if they needed clarification. She mentioned Commissioner Lucey's statement about the requirements for County Manager was correct. She said the County's form of government had a strong Manager and weak elected officials. She stated the candidate needed patience to work with the many elected department heads who did not work for the Manager. It was a difficult position. The County was a large organization and needed an educated manager who knew how to manage. She stated the number of full-time equivalents and the budget size were indicators of the job's difficulty. She noted the time commitment was a challenge because the Manager needed to be available at all times. People might complain about the Manager's salary but, when compared to the time commitment, the Manager earned a very low hourly rate.

Mr. Slaughter agreed the County had very good staff. He said Human Resources staff started working on the agenda item as soon as his notification was submitted. Due to the time constraint, the agenda might be published before the staff report for that item was completed. He said staff understood the urgency and would agendize the search discussion at the earliest possible meeting.

Mr. Slaughter mentioned the pinwheel arrangements in Chambers were courtesy of the Child Advocacy Center in recognition of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. He thanked them for providing the arrangements.

## **DONATIONS**

- 19-0281**      **7A** Recommendation to accept cash [\$5,609.40] and in-kind donations [estimated value \$7,382.00] from various businesses, organizations and individuals for Regional Parks and Open Space programs and facilities; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the appropriate budget amendments. Community Services. (All Commission Districts.)
- 19-0282**      **7B** Recommendation to accept a cash donation from the Grace Community Church of Reno, a non-profit religious organization, to the Washoe County Human Services Agency in the amount of [\$300,000] to support the expansion of Crossroads for young clients ages 18-24 on the Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services campus; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)
- 19-0283**      **7C1** Recommendation to accept a donation of [\$300.00] from Fire Shows West to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office for the Citizen Corps Program (CCP), including funds to be used for food purchases & operating supplies, and, if approved, authorize Comptroller's Office to make appropriate budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)
- 19-0284**      **7C2** Recommendation to accept a one-time cash donation of [\$10.00] from a private citizen to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office to be used for operating costs, and, if approved, authorize Comptroller's Office to make appropriate budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

Commissioner Jung read the donations, reviewed the programs and services the donations would benefit, and thanked everyone who had donated to Washoe County.

There was no public comment on the donations listed above.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried on a 3-0 vote with Commissioners Berkgigler and Herman absent, it was ordered that Agenda Items 7A to 7C2 be accepted.

## **PROCLAMATIONS**

### **19-0285      8A1 Proclaim May 2019 as Older Americans Month.**

Commissioner Jung read the Proclamation and presented it to Human Services Agency (HSA) Director Amber Howell.

Ms. Howell introduced Senior Advisory Board member Donna Clontz and HSA Division Director Steve McBride. She said the opening ceremony for Older Americans Month would be at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 1 at the Senior Center on 9th Street. She said the HSA would host an information fair for seniors before the opening ceremony, which would highlight the 40 agencies contributing to the fun activities. She said the public could learn more about events scheduled during the month using the hashtag OAM2019 or by accessing the Older Americans Month booklet on the website. She mentioned printed copies of the booklet were available at the meeting. She thanked the Board for their continued support and said she looked forward to an exciting month.

Ms. Donna Clontz said the booklet was put together by staff, community partners, and volunteers. She said there were 80 different listings in the booklet ranging from sports activities to free museum days. Some local business and agencies that worked with seniors were included in the booklet, which would be available throughout the County.

Mr. Steve McBride said he joined the HSA approximately around the same time as the prior year's Older Americans Month. He said he had not known anything about it at the time but had learned a great deal since then; he was very excited to get to know senior services during the month of May. He thanked the Board for the recognition and support which allowed them to support the community.

Chair Hartung stated seniors were very important and had contributed to the community their entire lives. He noted many seniors found themselves in positions they had not expected and he thought it was incumbent upon the community to care for them.

Commissioner Jung thanked Chair Hartung for his compassion for seniors in the community. She agreed a civilized society took care of their elders.

### **19-0286      8A4 Proclaim May 2019 as One Truckee River Month.**

Commissioner Jung read the Proclamation. She stressed the river was a treasure to the community. When she moved to Reno, the river was fenced off and she thought it was contaminated. She commended the Cities of Reno and Sparks for working to make the river into a resource for the community.

Chair Hartung expressed pride for the support provided by the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) for One Truckee River. He said TMWA recognized a clean river meant a clean water supply. He noted surface water was a significant part of the County's water supply. Commissioner Jung said she believed the County had some of the best water in the world. Chair Hartung said TMWA had an approval rating over 92 percent, which was related the quality of the water supply.

**19-0287**      **8A8** Proclaim April as National Arab American Heritage Month.

Commissioner Jung read the Proclamation. She believed all immigrants contributed to society in the way Arab American Immigrants did in the Proclamation and she fully supported and endorsed immigration.

Chair Hartung noted people did not realize the contributions made by the Middle East including the Arabic numeral system used in the United States.

**19-0288**      **8A2** Proclaim May 2019 as National Bike Month and Bicycle Safety Month and Washoe County Bike Month.

Commissioner Lucey said the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) dealt with a number of issues pertaining to bike safety and ensuring bicyclists had a fair opportunity to utilize roads in the County and the region. He noted the RTC was trying to make bike safety a more relevant issue as people traveled throughout the community.

Commissioner Lucey read the Proclamation and presented it to Emily Barnes, Registered Nurse with the Health Department and member of the Truckee Meadows Bicycle Alliance (TMBA). Ms. Barnes said the TMBA was comprised of volunteers from local agencies, non-profit organizations, and bicycling enthusiasts. She said bicycling was good for one's health and reduced air pollution from vehicle emissions. She stated the TMBA felt it was important to promote bicycling more, so they were celebrating Bike Month instead of Bike Week in 2019. Bike Month gave residents a better opportunity to compete in the commuter challenge. She urged bicyclists to log their miles on the TMBA website throughout the month as there would be weekly drawings. She noted a list of Bike Month activities was on the TMBA website. The Bike Month poster, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk, was provided to the County Manager's Office and would be posted on approved County bulletin boards. She thanked the Board for their support.

Stephanie Chen, Health Educator, said the Health District was happy support Bike Month to encourage County residents to live active lifestyles and use alternative transportation. She encouraged everyone to participate in the various Bike Month activities. She thanked the Board for their support.

Commissioner Lucey noted he rode in the 2017 Mayoral Challenge and he hoped the Commissioners could participate in the 2019 bike ride challenge.

**19-0289**      **8A5** Proclaim May 1, 2019 as Law Day.

Commissioner Lucey read the Proclamation and presented it to Law Library Program Manager Emily Reed and Assistant Clerk of Court Julie Wise.

Ms. Reed thanked the Board for supporting and highlighting Law Day. She said the Law Library would celebrate Law Day on May 1, 2019. Nevada Legal Services would host an Ask a Lawyer event in the jury assembly room from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. which would allow members of the public to meet with a lawyer and ask questions for free. She said the Law Library would team up with the Northern Nevada Women Lawyers Association on May 8, 2019 to host a large-scale Ask a Lawyer event. She noted 80 people received assistance at the event the previous year. She said many people in the community were not sure whether they had a legal issue, so the event provided an opportunity to meet with an attorney for free to find out the next steps they needed to take.

Ms. Wise thanked the Board for listening and acknowledging the Law Day Proclamation. She expressed appreciation for Ms. Reed's hard work and dedication to meeting the needs of community members who were struggling with legal issues or needing help to navigate the legal system. She said she was honored for the opportunity to share information about the work being done at the Law Library.

**19-0290**      **8A3** Proclaim May 2, 2019 as National Day of Prayer.

Chair Hartung said the U.S. was founded on prayer and remarked he prayed continuously.

Chair Hartung read the Proclamation and presented it to Councilwoman Bonnie Weber. Councilwoman Weber thanked the Board for the Proclamation. She said it was the 15th year the County had presented the Proclamation and the 14th year they had a gathering in the Washoe County Administrative Complex courtyard. The gathering would be on Thursday, May 2, 2019. She mentioned there were usually approximately 150 people in attendance although some years there were 200 to 300 attendees. She commented Chair Hartung and Commissioner Jung had attended in previous years. She noted staff members were invited to attend and community members would be in attendance. She said pastors were responsible for organizing the event. She thanked Marilyn Kramer, Assistant to the County Manager, for ensuring the Proclamation was on the meeting agenda. She noted it was the first time all three government entities, the County and the Cities of Reno and Sparks, had issued Proclamations.

**19-0291**      **8A6** Proclaim May 2019 as Nevada Wildfire Awareness Month.

Chair Hartung read the Proclamations for Nevada Wildfire Awareness Month and Lake Tahoe Wildfire Awareness Month. He expressed concern about the severity of the upcoming wildfire season after the previous winter's levels of precipitation. He presented the Proclamations to Jamie Roice-Gomes, manager of the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension's (UNCE) Living with Fire program,

Alyssa Thom, outreach coordinator for the program, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore, and North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District Chief Ryan Sommer.

Ms. Roice-Gomes thanked the Board for the Proclamation. She said wildfires could threaten communities and impact homes, property, and human life. The keys to minimizing the impact of wildfires were the steps taken by proactive communities to prepare. She indicated representatives of Nevada's and Lake Tahoe's local, State, and federal firefighting agencies, wildfire prone communities, and the UNCE had partnered for a wildfire awareness campaign since 2006. Tips to help prepare homes included replacing wood shake or shingle roofs with a Class A fire-resistant roofs and keeping a 5-foot space around homes which was free of combustibles. She encouraged residents to prepare for wildfires not only during the months of May and June, but throughout the year. More information was available at [www.livingwithfire.info](http://www.livingwithfire.info) and [www.tahoe.livingwithfire.info](http://www.tahoe.livingwithfire.info).

Ms. Thom said there would be many events throughout the month of May to promote fire awareness. She noted Junk the Junipers events would be held May 4, 2019 in Washoe Valley and Silver Lake. Residents were invited to take woody vegetation to be chipped and they would receive a coupon for a replacement shrub from a local nursery. She mentioned a Nevada Fire Board meeting would be held at the Aces Stadium on May 17, 2019 and Living with Fire staff would present at the Aces game on May 18, 2019. She encouraged everyone to attend events during the month to learn about preparing for wildfires.

Chief Moore said he was proud to partner with Living with Fire staff. He noted the programs for green waste management were gaining momentum. People were realizing they had to take part in the defense of their homes and could not just rely on the fire department to save the day every time.

Chief Sommers thanked the Board for the Proclamation. He said he had accepted the Proclamation for several years and had always said fire knew no boundaries. He noted Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District Chief Scott Baker had been in Chambers earlier that morning to accept a Proclamation on behalf of the Lake Tahoe Basin, but he had to leave due to a prior commitment. He remarked the partnership with the University of Nevada, Reno and the Living with Fire program had helped educate residents about what needed to be done to stop devastating fires.

Chair Hartung asked staff for another copy of the Proclamation for Chief Moore.

**19-0292**      **8A7** Proclaim June 2019 as Lake Tahoe Wildfire Awareness Month.

See Agenda Item 8A6 for discussion that took place on this item.

There was no public comment on the Proclamations listed above.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried on a 3-0 vote with Commissioners Berkbigler and Herman absent, it was ordered that Agenda Items 8A1 to 8A8 be adopted.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – 9A1 THROUGH 9A2**

**19-0293**      **9A1** Recommendation to approve Commission District Special Fund disbursement [in the amount of \$15,000] for Fiscal Year 2018-2019; District 2 Commissioner Bob Lucey recommends a [\$15,000] grant to the Community Services Department to support efforts to increase pedestrian safety at the intersection of Edmonton and Butch Cassidy and in the Galena Terrace residential area; approve Resolutions necessary for same; and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary cross-fund, cross-functional budget appropriation transfer. Manager. (Commission Districts 2.)

**19-0294**      **9A2** Recommendation to approve Commission District Special Fund disbursement [in the amount of \$17,500] for Fiscal Year 2018-2019; District 5 Commissioner Jeanne Herman recommends a [\$5,000] grant to Washoe County Human Services Agency to support the CrossRoads program, a [\$2,500] grant to the Nevada State High School Rodeo Association to support the Washoe County High School Rodeo Club, a [\$2,500] grant to the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office for the RAVEN helicopter; and a [\$1,500] grant to the Gerlach Fire Station to support purchasing National Fire Protection Association compliant turnout gear for volunteer firefighters, a [\$1,500] grant to North Valleys High School to support the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC), a [\$1,500] grant to Spanish Springs High School to support the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Program, and a [\$1,500] grant to the Vya Conservation District to support the group’s mission to foster and support natural resource conservation, a [\$1,500] grant to the Washoe Storey Conservation District to support an educational Sage grouse exhibit; approve Resolutions necessary for same; and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary cross-fund, cross-functional budget appropriation transfers and disbursements of funds. Manager. (Commission District 5.)

Commissioner Jung noted Commissioner Lucey had disbursed all of his Commission District Special Funds for the year. She thanked Commissioners Herman and Lucey for their generous use of discretionary funds to improve the lives of constituents in their districts.

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

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Chair Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 3-0 vote with Commissioners Berkbigler and Herman absent, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 9A1 and 9A2 be approved. Any and all Resolutions or Interlocal Agreements pertinent to Consent Agenda Items 9A1 and 9A2 are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

**19-0295**      **AGENDA ITEM 10** Discussion and direction to staff regarding legislation or legislative issues proposed by legislators, by Washoe County, 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 to be of critical significance to Washoe County. Manager. (All Commission Districts.)

Chair Hartung asked whether the County was at a standstill on legislative matters. County Manager John Slaughter noted the Commissioners had a Legislature report. He remarked there was a major deadline on Friday, April 12, but staff did not have the details about which bills had been approved, rejected, or amended. He requested the Board put off discussing the legislative report with one exception. He pointed out Assembly Bill (AB) 176 which was the sexual assault survivors' bill of rights. He said the Board's previous position was to oppose but staff recommended a switch to a 'neutral working toward support' status. He noted there was one addition to the bill relating to the length of time evidence must be kept, but staff did not know the specifics of the new requirements.

Commissioner Jung explained the Board represented the entire County when it took a position on a bill. She stated the County was expected to take on responsibility for funding the fiscal notes put on bills by the Legislature. As a fiduciary agent for the County, the Board needed to be mindful of the cost of unfunded mandates to the County. All Commissioners were supportive of victims' rights but had to be mindful to represent the County, not themselves.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

**19-0296**      **AGENDA ITEM 11** Possible Closed Session for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations with Washoe County and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District per NRS 288.220.

County Manager John Slaughter indicated a closed session was not needed.

**19-0297**      **AGENDA ITEM 12** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

**19-0298**      **AGENDA ITEM 13** Announcements/Reports.

There were no announcements or reports.

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**12:48 p.m.**    There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

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**VAUGHN HARTUNG**, Chair  
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

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

*Minutes Prepared by:  
Carolina Stickle, Deputy County Clerk*