

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

OCTOBER 15, 2019

PRESENT:

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

Jan Galassini, Chief Deputy County Clerk
Dave Solaro, Interim County Manager
Nathan Edwards, Deputy District Attorney

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:00 a.m. in regular session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerk called the roll and the Board conducted the following business:

Chair Hartung introduced Reagan, Resse, and Riley Gipe, who were instrumental in getting the County to install a speed bump on their street in Spanish Springs.

19-0788 AGENDA ITEM 3 Introduction of new Washoe County Employees.

Interim County Manager Dave Solaro asked the following employees to introduce themselves to the Board:

Windi Altemeyer, Health District
Megan Bowling, Health District
Tyaashia Carminer, Sheriff's Office
Lesly Corona-Martinez, Animal Services
Mayra Deanda-Manriquez, District Attorney
Sir Marvelous Grant, Sheriff's Office
Christie Hubbard, Human Resources
Andrea Leon-Rodriguez, Reno Justice Court
Harley Maughan, Assessor's Office
Jillian Montgomery, Sheriff's Office
Christina Moreno Ortega, Animal Services
Elizabeth Parrish, Clerk's Office

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

19-0789 **AGENDA ITEM 4** Presentation of Excellence in Public Service Certificates honoring Washoe County employees who have completed essential employee development courses.

Dave Solaro, Interim County Manager, recognized the following employees:

Promote Yourself! Mini Certificate Program

Robin Posniak, Library
Catherine Salim, Registrar of Voters

Essentials of Personal Effectiveness

Jessica Haro, Public Defender

Essentials of SAP for Financial Staff

Robert Andrews, Comptroller
Irene Dominguez, Washoe County Sheriff's Office

Essentials of SAP for HR Reps

Nicole Klitzke, Public Administrator
Edwin Smith, Comptroller

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

19-0790 **AGENDA ITEM 5** Public Comment.

Ms. Sara Schmitz expressed frustration about the responsibility of the Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID) to provide services and she thought residents were not getting services equal to the taxes they paid. She reported that 'No Parking' signs were promised by Commissioner Berkbigler but they had not been installed; she was informed IVGID did not have the proper Nevada Revised Statute to include on the signs. She opined Incline Village was a residential community and not a tourist destination as many thought. She asserted that changes in the governing of Incline Village needed to occur and she wanted the County Commissioners to attend monthly Citizen Advisory Board meetings.

Mr. Mike Hess stated public community meetings about short-term rentals (STRs) in Incline Village were held in January and September of 2019. He noted the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency passed neighborhood compatibility rules the previous week but were still waiting for enforceable regulations from Washoe County. He indicated volunteers were available if staff needed help. He opined Incline Village and Crystal Bay needed either its own Commissioner or County, or both.

Ms. Elise Weatherly spoke about changes, facts, the truth, her brother, her brain tumor, a music CD, and where money was spent in Washoe County.

Mr. Jeff Church spoke about a recent article on the front page of the *Reno Gazette-Journal* related to homeless individuals camping in parks. He thought people wanted to help the homeless but many did not know how to help. He said helping the homeless could benefit the community, the justice and healthcare systems, and the mentally ill. He promoted a camping area for the homeless that would be safe and sanitary. He thought the time to talk had passed and action needed to occur. He expressed frustration about the Community Homelessness Advisory Board not being able to make decisions since its establishment in 2011. He opined the advisory status needed to change to include decision-making authority because they needed to act on discussed items. He said he had an architectural drawing of a camp area that could be used in the community.

Mr. Levi Hooper said he recently moved to a new area close to the river and many tents were located under a bridge. He noted he had been taking donated items to the people living along the river to help them. The weather was getting colder and he said the need for blankets and warm clothes was increasing. He thought each day brought more people to the tent area and they could use anything they could get. He stated he would deliver food, clothes, blankets, and other items to the people and he provided his phone number. He hoped a better place could be found to locate people in need.

Mr. Sam Dehne spoke about Indigenous People's Day, an article Commissioner Herman wrote, the Reno City Council, and the media.

19-0791 AGENDA ITEM 6 Announcements/Reports.

Interim County Manager Dave Solaro stated it was mentioned during the September 24 Board of County Commissioners' meeting that Idaho County Commissioner Michelle Chadwick requested that the Search and Rescue Team (SART) be recognized for their quick response to a recent plane crash. Chair Hartung spoke about SART being a volunteer program and commended them on the work they did in the community. He invited SART members to introduce themselves. He asked staff for a Proclamation to be presented to SART at a future meeting.

Chair Hartung displayed a photo of Reagan, Resse, and Riley Gipe with a sign thanking him for the speed bumps in their neighborhood. He stated the Gipe girls and their family petitioned the County for speed bumps in their neighborhood in response to an unsafe driver causing damage to their property. Chair Hartung thanked Mr. Solaro and Director of Engineering and Capital Projects Dwayne Smith for the installation of the speed bumps.

Commissioner Jung wanted an update regarding indigent care and a breakdown of the money paid toward hospital bills for people unable to pay. She asked for post-hospital statistics and said federal mandates required certain criteria to receive indigent health service to avoid readmittance. She stated a patient had been in a hospital in Denver, Colorado for 1,500 days paid by the County because appropriate housing was not available for the patient upon released. She wondered about the hospital's plan for housing after hospital stays. She said patients would need wound care or physical rehabilitation.

She asked for data from the Northern Nevada Medical Center, Saint Mary's Health, and Renown Health, as well as information related to what Washoe County was paying. She wanted the data to include readmission rates. She asserted Washoe County was not the only county with a homelessness issue.

Commissioner Berkbigler understood 'No Parking' signs were already installed in Incline Village. She wanted a report of places where signs had not been installed.

19-0792 **AGENDA ITEM 7** Proclamations: Proclaim the week of October 20-26, 2019 as National Friends of Libraries Week.

Vice Chair Lucey read and presented the Proclamation to Library Director Jeff Scott, Friends of the Washoe County Library (Friends) President Dan Erwine and Friends' Directors Mary Jones, Sheree Garcia, and Sheryl Stopper.

Mr. Erwine thanked the Board of County Commissioners for helping raise money for the Friends.

Mr. Scott thanked the Friends for all they did and said the Library could not do what they did without them.

10:43 a.m. **The Board recessed.**

10:47 a.m. **The Board reconvened with all Commissioners present.**

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Berkbigler, which duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7 be acknowledged.

DONATIONS

19-0793 **8A** Recommendation to accept cash [\$12,970.62] and in-kind donations [estimated value \$11,764.07] 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.)

19-0794 **8B** Recommendation to accept a cash donation of [\$12,500] from Black Rock LLC in support of increased demand for fire and emergency medical services associated with the "Burning Man" event and if approved, direct the Comptroller to make the appropriate budget amendments. Manager's Office. (Commission District 5.)

19-0795 **8C1** Recommendation to accept a donation of [\$525.00] from a private citizen to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office to be used for the purchase a duty firearm and, if approved, authorize Comptroller's Office to make appropriate budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

19-0796 **8C2** Recommendation to accept a cash donation of [\$1,000.00] from Community Foundation of Western Nevada to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office to be used for the Secret Witness Program, and, if approved, authorize Comptroller's Office to make appropriate budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

Mr. Sam Dehne spoke in support of the donations, and addressed Burning Man participants being disrespectful and an article Commissioner Herman wrote.

Ms. Elise Weatherly spoke about the community being in a mess and stated she did not want donations to go to non-profit organizations. She also brought up the Secret Witness program and being invited to play her music.

On motion by Vice Chair Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Berkbigler, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Items 8A through 8C2 be approved.

19-0797 **AGENDA ITEM 9** Presentation on capital improvement funding and possible direction to continue to explore financing and implementation strategies for future capital improvement needs through the strategic planning and capital improvement budgeting processes. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

Assistant County Manager Christine Vuletich conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk, and reviewed slides with the following titles: Discussion Flow; What is Capital Budgeting and Why is it Important (3 slides); Recommended Best Practices in Capital Budgeting (3 slides); Washoe County Capital Improvement Policies (2 slides); Washoe County Capital Improvement Plan (2 slides); Funds Used to Budget and Account for Capital Improvements; Capital Improvement Fund Budget FY 2020 (2 slides); Future Capital Improvement Fund Projects (3 slides); Resources for Funding Capital Improvements (6 slides); Existing Resources for Funding Capital Improvements (2 slides); Going Forward; and Next Steps. She stated staff had started the budgeting process for the FY 2020/21 Budget.

Vice Chair Lucey asked about the useable lifespan for a building. Ms. Vuletich indicated it depended on the building but she believed a standard lifespan was approximately 50 years.

Vice Chair Lucey expressed concern about the consolidated tax (C-tax). Currently the County was using \$114 million of the \$120 million towards County operations, leaving only \$6 million to pay existing debt service. He mentioned C-tax

fluctuated and went towards operational expenses, which did not provide flexibility. He wondered about ongoing maintenance costs versus replacement costs, and asked staff for a breakdown of maintenance costs. He was concerned about funding capital improvement projects of more than \$1 billion over the next 20 years. He noted the Board had approved the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, although there was not an identified funding source yet. He stated a Library Expansion tax would sunset in 2025. He wanted new potential ways to restructure financing and revenue sources.

Commissioner Berkbigler shared the same concerns about managing maintenance and future Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects. She stated homelessness was an issue and expansion of the Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (NNAMHS) campus was necessary. She indicated low-income housing was a serious issue and the average median home cost of \$400,000 was unachievable for many dual-income families. She wanted more flexibility with fund projects and wondered whether the flood project was necessary. No matter how much money was spent on the river, she noted, it would flood again and she thought that money could be put to better use elsewhere. She said the information presented was great, although it was frightening to hear how little money was available for flexible spending. She hoped a funding source could be identified to allow staff to move forward with needed projects.

Chair Hartung referred to the utilities fund slide and wondered whether that fund consisted of ratepayers' user fees. Ms. Vuletich confirmed that was correct and it included connection fees. Chair Hartung thought these funds were not commingled. Ms. Vuletich confirmed the funds were segregated by utility areas.

Chair Hartung stated the Wild Creek Golf Course slide displayed more revenue than he thought the County received and asked about the extra funds. Interim County Manager Dave Solaro explained the funds included the sale of land and water rights.

Vice Chair Lucey asked about CIP needs and wondered whether those items were brought before the Board for approval. Mr. Solaro stated a CIP committee reviewed and prioritized capital items before they were brought to the Board of County Commissioners for approval.

Vice Chair Lucey asked about the process for prioritizing capital improvement projects. Mr. Solaro explained the committee reviewed every project annually. Department heads submitted projects for approval based on priority, the committee confirmed that each project fit in with the strategic plan, a needs review was performed, and a risk-based review was conducted to determine whether the project would be better served through maintenance or replacement. He indicated equipment aged out before buildings did and would be a priority. The jail received a large amount of funding for maintenance due to the size of the facility. He stated the process was done with asset management software, which determined the life expectancy of buildings. A ranking system was used by the Technology Services Director, the Comptroller, the Assistant County Managers, and a budget person to score each project based on a set criteria. The

individual scores were analyzed, allowing staff to create a funding plan based on the rankings.

Vice Chair Lucey wondered about an evaluation of the buildings and whether the disposition costs of certain assets were considered. He asked about revenue that could be generated by the sale of 350 South Center Street. Mr. Solaro stated portions of an assessment had been done but the County had not made the full determination of which buildings met or did not meet the needs; he said a full assessment would be performed. He indicated the Washoe County School District was currently contemplating the cost of renovations versus rebuilding one of its middle schools. He stated the options regarding 350 South Center Street would be moving operations to a different facility, building a new facility, or renovating it to accommodate the County's needs. The master planning process helped identify the usefulness of current buildings for future options.

Chair Hartung said the presentation indicated the SAP System was becoming outdated and wondered whether training had been factored into the cost of a new software system. Ms. Vuletich stated the operating costs, including implementation and training, would be factored. Chair Hartung stated the new software would need to be integrated with other software programs throughout the County. Ms. Vuletich explained experts within the County were researching the process of integration. Software was more nimble and easier to integrate, and there could be other useful programs the County could utilize for other departments. She stated staff was looking into all options, but many of the costs were unknown at this time.

Vice Chair Lucey referred to slide 13 related to capital improvement funds. He asked whether staff had considered having a technology fund that could be utilized throughout the County. He mentioned many departments needed software upgrades. Ms. Vuletich stated there was no such fund currently, but she thought it was a great idea. Some organizations set up funds like the Equipment Services Fund, and a percentage could be earmarked for technology. Vice Chair Lucey stated it was a digital age, and specific funds for constant technology upgrades were important. He wanted this discussed during the next budget cycle.

Commissioner Herman said roads had not been discussed and she was curious about the cost to improve the roads in the north part of the County. She stated this could come back to the Board at a future meeting.

Commissioner Jung asserted the current financial situation was great compared to 2007 when the County had no flexible funds for anything. She said capital improvement maintenance was deferred for so long she thought the government services tax should have been raised then. The capital improvements taxpayers invested in were compromised due to a lack of annual maintenance. She stated the County needed to look at long-term issues more than short-term ones. She explained the County did everything they could to perform needed maintenance before purchasing new or replacement items.

Commissioner Jung asked staff to determine the cost to abandon the flood management authority and wanted to know about the annual revenue it could generate if it was maintained by County staff.

Commissioner Jung referred to the Regional Transportation Commission fuel tax that was approved by voters and wondered what else the tax could be used for. She hoped 10 percent could be used for non-regional roads or public safety that would allow for road improvements in the unincorporated County. She was aware that fuel tax revenue could be impacted due to people purchasing electric vehicles. She suggested a tire or mileage tax that could possibly counteract the impact from fuel. She wanted an analysis of the funds and flexibility of use.

Commissioner Jung spoke about a 2016 citizen survey that was conducted and thought it was useless information. She stated she had never seen a survey in Washoe County that was scientific or vetted, and opined it took a lot of money for a proper survey. She said advisory ballot questions needed to be explained to voters to be effective, referring to an advisory ballot question from 2012.

Commissioner Jung wanted the affordable housing trust fund to be fully funded. She stated affordable housing was currently an international issue, not just a regional one. She expressed concern that the average median house price was \$400,000 and the average wage was \$12.00 per hour. She thought something was seriously wrong with the system.

Commissioner Jung said the County needed to use the money collected for capital projects. She wondered about departments that could be brought in-house to save costs. During strategic planning retreats, many good ideas were brought forward but she thought there was no follow through on them. She wanted sustainable projects to be done and did not want to rely on grants and donations. She asked for a funding strategy to fund the projects, but she did not want to continue if the County was not serious about them. There were many times in the past when there was fear about payroll not being met, staff doing multiple jobs, and a high rate of cancer among staff from stress; she thought the County was in a much better financial situation now. She wanted real solutions for future generations and mentioned current voters and constituents were a different population. She thought delaying capital projects was a bad idea for the County.

Mr. Solaro explained the utility fund consisted of three separate utilities: the north Spanish Springs detention facility, the reclaimed water utility, and the sewer utility. The money within the fund was only utilized for those utilities.

On the call for public comment, Ms. Elise Weatherly spoke about a needs assessment, tax increases, communication systems, and people she knew living off the government.

Mr. Solaro wanted to ensure it was clear that the presentation discussed capital needs but did not identify all the departments and their needs. This item was

structured towards capital projects because it was the next step since the master plan was complete. He stated this would move towards a process for the prioritization of Board and community needs.

There was no action taken on this item.

19-0798 **AGENDA ITEM 10** Public Comment.

On call for public comment, Ms. Elise Weatherly spoke about high tax rates, flooded houses, indigent people, students who were brilliant, and chemotherapy.

19-0799 **AGENDA ITEM 11** Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Berkgigler received a list of County-owned buildings and wondered why some were not branded as Washoe County buildings. She expressed concern that Incline Village residents thought they were not provided enough services for the taxes they paid. She wanted a breakdown of the costs for all the services provided to Incline Village and Crystal Bay so residents would know where their tax dollars were going.

Commissioner Herman wanted a definition of affordable housing. She said it seemed the actual meaning of affordable housing meant different things to different people. She stated the County’s position on sanctuary counties was vague and she wanted Sheriff Balaam to present information to the Board about where the County stood on the issue.

Commissioner Jung stated the County needed to provide an operational definition of affordable housing and said there was a national standard. She wanted to know what it would take to get people housed. She agreed Washoe County buildings and assets needed branding. She asserted people might want to buy properties and the name should be on the property to show who owned it. She thought there was a branding committee.

Commissioner Jung spoke about equal taxes for equal services and stated it was the price people paid to live in a civil society. She explained taxpayers did not receive a dollar for dollar equivalent to what they put in. She thought Incline Village residents should be reminded how much they cost the County in property taxes. She stated residents would realize what they received if the services were to stop. She wanted Incline Village residents reeducated about the services provided to them.

Chair Hartung asked when the County would reach the amount of housing to satisfy the demand. He thought the demand for affordable housing was outpacing the supply.

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12:15 p.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

VAUGHN HARTUNG, 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