

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

MAY 19, 2020

PRESENT:

Bob Lucey, Chair
Marsha Berkbigler, Vice Chair
Kitty Jung, Commissioner (via telephone)
Vaughn Hartung, Commissioner (via telephone)
Jeanne Herman, Commissioner

Nancy Parent, County Clerk
Dave Solaro, Assistant County Manager
Nathan Edwards, Deputy District Attorney (via Zoom)

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:04 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:

20-0318 AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.

Chair Lucey announced public comments must be received by 4:00 p.m. the day prior to a meeting. He stated there was a video public comment received but staff was not able to review it before the meeting, so it would be placed on the record with the Clerk.

A voicemail from Ms. Danielle Murillo was played in Chambers. She stated her father was shot and killed on February 5 by the Reno Police Department. She expressed concern about body cam video not being released to family members of individuals killed by law enforcement. She was told her father had a knife and was shot twice and killed. She wanted to know whether her father's death was justified. She indicated her father was bipolar and crippled in one leg, and it did not make sense to his family why he was shot.

A voicemail received from Ms. Susan, whose last name could not be distinguished, was played in Chambers. She wanted to know what was going to be done about the District Attorney's Office and police officers killing people. She said her son was suicidal and not a threat to anyone in the community, but he was shot. She indicated the District Attorney could not help her with information about where to go or who to talk to about police officers not doing their jobs. She hoped someone could tell her who to talk to related to officer-involved shootings and the treatment of citizens.

A voicemail received from Ms. Annemarie Grant was played in Chambers. She stated she was the sister of Thomas Purdy, who was hogtied and asphyxiated to death by multiple officers on October 4, 2015. She commented that the Medical Examiner

indicated her brother would not have died if restraints and physical abuse had not been used on him. She expressed concern about multiple cases where body cam video was being withheld and there was no follow up. She opined District Attorney Chris Hicks took an unacceptable length of time to indicate whether shootings were justified. She heard Sparks Police officers shot a man in the back 16 times in his own home, but that investigation had not been completed in more than two years. She believed the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) was mandated by Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 211.020 to inquire about the security of the jail and the condition of inmates once every three months. She challenged Sheriff Balaam to allow access to incarcerated individuals so they could explain to the BCC how they were treated. Chair Lucey stated Ms. Grant submitted a video, which would be placed on record with the Clerk.

A voicemail received from Mr. Daniel Purdy was played in Chambers in which he stated he was the brother of Thomas Purdy, who was killed by deputies at the Washoe County Jail. Referencing a comment made by a certain Commissioner that he was from a special interest group, Mr. Purdy clarified he was not a part of any group, but the brother of a man hogtied by the Reno Police Department, placed face-down for 40 minutes, and smothered to death. He wondered about the biannual report from the Sheriff's Office about inmate deaths, stating four people had died under the Sheriff's watch. He asserted NRS was created for a reason and it was time for the BCC to do its job so no other families had to see their loved ones being killed on video.

20-0319 AGENDA ITEM 4 Announcements/Reports.

Vice Chair Berkbigler stated some restaurants were opening with 50 percent capacity and wondered if it would benefit them to allow outdoor space, possibly parking spaces, so they could serve at full capacity and still be in conformance with social distancing guidelines. She expressed concern that the State allowing restaurants to only serve at a 50 percent capacity meant they would only hire back 50 percent of employees. She knew Chair Lucey would review things this weekend and she thought this would be extremely beneficial to restaurants who were not able to fully open. She said she received many emails from constituents who were concerned about going into grocery stores and pharmacies where people were not wearing masks. She admitted the Governor had not made masks mandatory; she thought the County could say masks were mandatory, though she did not know if it could be enforced. She wondered whether it was possible to require people to wear masks at grocery stores and pharmacies. She expressed concern that those were the two places vulnerable people had to go and they could be at risk if people did not wear masks.

Commissioner Herman said she agreed with points made about masks in grocery stores and pharmacies, supporting businesses, and getting people back to work. She thought every business needed help to get employees back to work. She noted the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) needed to do their part by allowing people to attend meetings in person. She thought there was a way to get at least some people in Chambers. She stated people wanted to come to the meeting to speak about the development in Pleasant Valley. She did not want to be unconstitutional. She expressed concern about mail-in ballots being found in garbage cans, postal personnel not being able

to locate people, and ballots ending up in the wrong hands.

Commissioner Hartung stated Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer (PIO) Bob Harmon was retiring. He noted Mr. Harmon had been a wonderful colleague and a dear friend. He said he was looking forward to working with Sarah Johns, who he noted was a student of his at the University of Nevada, Reno, and asserted she would be a great addition to the Sheriff's Office. He mentioned Commissioners received complaints about non-compliant businesses and wondered who handled these complaints. He was contacted by a business about another business not wearing masks. He said it would be interesting to have a conversation with the Health District or the regulating agencies. He asked where to direct people for testing, saying he was contacted by a family of eight people; one parent tested positive but the rest of the family was told they just needed to quarantine since they were not symptomatic. The family went to another area to be tested and all family members tested positive. He wanted to know the procedures for quarantine and whether this family all had to isolate in a small home or if they could use the quarantine units on Edison Way.

Commissioner Hartung said Vice Chair Berkbigler's point about restaurants was great but he also thought taverns and bars could open with options. He thought streets could be closed off to assist with space to get clientele coming back and keep the businesses viable. He said businesses would close if they were locked down much longer, which would create a landslide of closed businesses. He appreciated the hard work Chair Lucey had done. He asserted safety was the priority, but people needed to get back to work to support their families. He noted many individuals were still not eligible for any type of supplements and they were living day to day.

Commissioner Jung said she was getting the same complaints about people not complying with the masks directive, even though it was not mandatory. She said it made her nervous to put law enforcement in charge of that because they had their hands full and she did not think it was a direction the County wanted to go. She encouraged people to write a note to a business they wanted to frequent and explain they were uncomfortable with patrons without masks. She indicated it was the businesses' job to lure customers they wanted in. She agreed with Commissioner Hartung and Vice Chair Berkbigler about dining outside and thought this would be something the community would possibly do for the next couple of years. She imagined Reno and Sparks could transform the look of their downtowns by eliminating cars and having everything open onto the streets during the warm season. She bid farewell to Mr. Harmon and said he could teach everyone a thing or two about the importance of flexibility during an economic crisis. She admired the way he seamlessly transitioned from the Parks Department to the Sheriff's Office as their PIO. She agreed there was probably no one better or more trusted in his field locally. She welcomed Sarah Johns as the new PIO for the Sheriff's Office, asserting Ms. Johns was a real catch.

Assistant County Manager Dave Solaro reminded the Commissioners that Washoe 311 was the resource for complaints about businesses not being compliant. He noted they could be reached by dialing 311 or emailing washoe311@washoecounty.us. He stated Washoe 311 staff had all the necessary information for the appropriate people and

encouraged Commissioners to direct constituents to contact them.

Vice Chair Berkbigler agreed having the Sheriff's Office enforce face masks was not the direction the County should go. She thought businesses should enforce the issue in their stores.

Commissioner Hartung said he and his wife were at a grocery store where everyone lined up out front and people entered with masks only as other people exited. He said people were very respectful in the store, though he knew not everyone had this experience. He stated it was a model for how things could be run. It was not stressful and he did not feel his rights had been infringed upon. He noted he would talk to staff off-line about the processes.

Chair Lucey pointed out Mr. Harmon did fantastic work and was dedicated to the County. For the last years of his career at the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, he was at the front line during some of the most tragic times but also some of the best times. He said Mr. Harmon provided a level of professionalism and expertise as a PIO, providing the community with information when it was so desperately needed. He wished him the best in his retirement and thanked him for the many years of his life he dedicated to the County.

Chair Lucey wondered why the County was not moving toward a broad-based, asymptomatic type of test. He agreed the BCC needed to advocate for that to happen. He stated Renown President and CEO Dr. Tony Slonim advocated for 100,000 tests to be performed in 100 days to obtain good information about how the virus was affecting the community. He pointed out the Edison Way housing was created to assist with isolation but had not been used. He wanted to ensure the Manager's Office was addressing housing concerns and utilizing Edison Way properly for isolation. He thought the facility could be used and costs would be compensated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He stated any discussion with staff should occur as soon as possible to rectify and ensure information about the site was provided to the public immediately. He mentioned that facility was ready to be utilized by people who could not quarantine properly.

Chair Lucey said a lot had been heard about cases continuing to erupt in skilled nursing facilities throughout the region. He indicated it was alarming and challenging, and his heart went out to the families who were not able to get close to their loved ones. He explained the State and the Department of Behavioral Health were working diligently with the Washoe County Health District regarding excessive cases in nursing facilities. He stated the County knew the amount of positive cases would increase as more tests were performed. He said social distancing, hand washing, and proper sanitation were working, and the only way to have a handle on the virus was to have a vaccine or treatment in place. He said children throughout the country were showing different symptoms of the virus. The state had been in Phase 1 for more than a week and a sense of worry and concern was still present in the community. He stated the Board was recommending people wear masks to protect individuals. He agreed with other Commissioners that some stores were doing great while others were not; people not wearing masks was a statewide challenge.

Restaurants continued to see a different type of customer and some restaurants were choosing to wait to reopen where others were moving ahead. He asked people to be patient and humble because this was a new type of business and everyone was learning as they went. He stated Memorial Day was coming up and that day was going to be two weeks from when Phase 1 began, and it would be seen how the community reacted and how the flattening of the curve was continuing.

Chair Lucey stated the Local Empowerment Advisory Panel (LEAP) had been working diligently to see what could be done to move into Phase 2 and, if the numbers stayed positive as testing continued, they hoped it would be soon. He said he had several conversations with the State Lab and the Department of Emergency Management (DEM). He explained that Caleb Cage was moved to head up testing and the COVID response in the Governor's Office, so he no longer worked at the DEM. He stated Mr. Cage had a wealth of information and was a strong advocate. He thanked Clark County Board of Commissioners' Chairwoman Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Eureka County Board of Commissioners' Chairman J.J. Goicoechea, Nevada Association of Counties' Executive Director Dagny Stapleton, Nevada Business and Industry's Director Terry Reynolds, Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development's Executive Director Michael Brown, and Switch's Senior Vice President Betsy Fretwell for all their help on the LEAP team. He said the work these individuals had done to protect business interests, from churches to tattoo parlors, was tireless. Not one of these individuals had ever advocated for businesses to stay closed and they worked to ensure protective policies were in place for everyone. The LEAP team wanted to be able to provide information to the Governor for Washoe County.

Chair Lucey said people were becoming very innovative, citing groups of people in Las Vegas doing yoga outdoors while practicing social distancing. He asked everyone to continue to be safe.

Commissioner Jung stated the most important thing was to be consistent with messaging, and modeling was the most effective form for changing behaviors. She said Chair Lucey had the best education of how the State worked with private industry and special interest groups to manage this. She thought Nevada was very different from any other state because it relied so much on tourism. Tourists needed to be assured they would not be sent home sick when they visited Reno because that would be more detrimental than having to shut down for a couple months. The State economic driver was in Clark County, but Reno was different than Las Vegas. She said she reached out to Chair Lucey anytime she received a call from a special interest group to see if he wanted her to do research. She stated he had been directing her, but that was her being proactive. She thanked the Chair and hoped everyone took good care of themselves and others if they were able. She noted people were suffering and people's personal budgets were far worse than the County's budget. She trusted staff and the Board Chairs to get the County through this.

Chair Lucey asked for an agenda item to discuss the continued COVID-19 response regarding enforcement and testing. He said it was important because it was right after Memorial Day and before the potential move to Phase 2 of reopening.

Vice Chair Berkbigler expressed concern about Memorial Day and campers. She said the large state next door had not reopened its parks and the Forest Service had not opened campgrounds. Local campgrounds were closed based on the Governor's last ruling but that was not stopping people from coming to Washoe County. She said Truckee was in Phase 2 and starting to open more things, but there was no place for people to stay; she thought they were coming to Washoe County. She expressed concern about fires over the Memorial Day weekend due to campgrounds being closed and people camping in areas they should not be. She thought it was incumbent on the County to keep a close eye on what was happening as people came to town. Incline Village had already been inundated and the State of Nevada closed some parking lots near Sand Harbor and other areas as a result. She mentioned people were parking in neighborhoods surrounding Incline Village already, and she could not imagine what it would be like for Memorial Day because the weather was supposed to be nice.

Commissioner Herman stated a test for antibodies could be ordered from a doctor. Chair Lucey confirmed there were two different tests: the PCR test that was a point in time test to determine if the virus was present, and an antibody test that could determine whether an individual had been previously infected with the virus. He stated the antibody test could be ordered from a practitioner and the results would be sent directly to the tested individual. He stated the website covid19washoe.com had a link to guidelines and recommendations for businesses, but it also contained good information for the public.

Commissioner Hartung mentioned low numbers of people were reported either at emergency rooms or receiving treatment. He thought people were avoiding such areas unless they were in critical condition for fear of being infected with COVID-19. He reminded the public there was plenty of capacity in the emergency rooms, and anyone suffering with severe medical issues should call 911.

20-0320 **AGENDA ITEM 5** Appearance and presentation by Washoe County Sheriff Darin Balaam concerning the 1990 Agreement for Dispatch and Forensic Services Between the City of Reno Police Department and the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, and a Crime Lab fee study previously presented to the Board, and discussion and possible action to terminate, re-negotiate, continue, or take other action deemed appropriate by the Board with regard to the 1990 Agreement.

Via the Zoom app, Washoe County Sheriff Darin Balaam thanked the Commissioners for acknowledging Public Information Officer Bob Harmon who was a critical part of the team and would be missed. He said Mr. Harmon's official last day would be May 22. He mentioned a fifth employee tested positive for COVID-19, saying the four employees who previously tested positive had recovered and returned to work. He stated they tested eight employees and one inmate who had been in contact with the employee who tested positive, and all tested negative. He said the positive employee would be tested again later in the week but was doing well with his recovery and looking forward to coming back the following week.

Sheriff Balaam introduced the staff on Zoom with him: Chief Deputy Jeff Clark, Undersheriff Wayne Yarborough, Chief Deputy Tim O'Connor, Chief Deputy Greg Herrera, and Crime Lab Director Kerri Heward, among others. Sheriff Balaam conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk, and reviewed slides with the following titles: Crime Lab Study; Recommendations (8 slides); and Questions.

Sheriff Balaam said the Washoe County Sheriff's Office and County Manager's Office had been working together to address the disparity in services between the Washoe County Crime Lab and Reno Dispatch over the prior five years. During that time, consultants from IXP and Fiscal Choice were utilized, and the Sheriff's Office had also consulted with Russ Branson. A Crime Lab Fee Study was presented to the Board the previous week. This was in response to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) entered into by the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) and the Reno City Council in 1990 with no ending date. The MOU outlined an exchange of services between Reno Dispatch and the Washoe County Crime Lab. Technology with forensic services had grown and advanced at the Sheriff's Office. He indicated the BCC and the Sheriff's Office recognized a growing financial gap between services rendered.

Sheriff Balaam reviewed the first of the eight recommendations that came from Mr. Branson's study, which was to eliminate the subsidy of Reno services. Sheriff Balaam indicated he agreed and would support the BCC in addressing a new contract with the City of Reno. He said he also supported fair and equal pay for services rendered between the two agencies. This disparity had been addressed dating back to the early 2000s and he reached out to Reno Police Chief Jason Soto, City Manager Sabra Newby, and former County Manager John Slaughter to discuss the values of these services. The Reno Police Department then indicated they wanted to move the dispatch center to their new police station. He said the Sheriff's Office began moving forward to ensure the dispatch center was able to handle calls for service, including 911 calls that Dispatch was currently handling.

Sheriff Balaam stated the second recommendation was to eliminate the subsidy of Sparks' service. He said he met with the Sparks Police Department's previous Chief and incoming Chief Pete Krall in 2019 and advised them the bill for fiscal year 2020/2021, would reflect the full cost of services rendered. He noted they were waiting for a signed contract from the City of Sparks for the upcoming fiscal year.

Sheriff Balaam stated the third recommendation was to reduce the County subsidy of non-contract agencies. He said this was done for the upcoming fiscal year and noted option C was for "pay as you go" services. He mentioned agencies utilizing the Crime Lab would only have options A and B available to them.

Sheriff Balaam stated the fourth recommendation was to reduce the number of option B agencies. He noted he supported this recommendation and steps had been taken over the past decade to become more efficient at a lower cost by transitioning to all civilian staff in the Crime Lab rather than commissioned staff. Modern technology was currently

being used to be more efficient, and he mentioned the transition to civilian staff allowed them to reduce the subsidy of option B agencies in 2018.

Sheriff Balaam stated the fifth recommendation was to capture the full cost of services. As a result of current practices, he said, they were capturing most of the departmental and countywide overhead to include IT and purchasing costs. In the future, he hoped to be able to add a dedicated IT specialist for all technology utilized in the Crime Lab as well as a dedicated buyer for the Sheriff's Office, which would free up personnel currently fulfilling those positions. He indicated he supported capturing the capital replacement costs. Technology and equipment would need to be replaced over the next five years at a cost of \$1.8 million, so a Capital Improvement Project request was submitted in the budget for the upcoming year. He stated that money would be placed into a restricted fund so it could be moved if grants were no longer available; they would not be fully reliant on grants to replace the equipment.

Sheriff Balaam stated the sixth recommendation was to shift the cost of FIS (Forensic Investigation Section) services to FIS service users only. Option A for this service included access to the Crime Lab and FIS while option B included access to only the Crime Lab. If data needed to be tracked for all FIS services, it would be extremely labor intensive, so agencies that wanted to use FIS could select option A and those that did not want FIS could select option B.

Sheriff Balaam stated the seventh recommendation was to reduce the subsidy of State contracts. He noted the State preferred to sign 3-year contracts and the costs would average out over the lifetime of the contracts with incremental increases yearly.

Sheriff Balaam stated the eighth recommendation started in 1990, when there were only five people working in the Crime Lab; now there were more than 37 working there. The Lab had new firearms examination equipment and software called the Laboratory Information Management System that could track users and costs. He stated outside agencies that did not enter into a contract but requested services would be billed and left in the database so costs could be compared if they used the Crime Lab again.

Sheriff Balaam said they met with the County Manager regarding the eight recommendations and they were mostly agreed upon. Some of the recommendations had already been implemented for the fiscal year starting on July 1, 2020. He supported the BCC addressing the recommendations with the City of Reno.

Vice Chair Berkbigler supported moving forward, saying it was time the County stopped subsidizing other agencies for services it provided.

Commissioner Hartung asked Sheriff Balaam whether there was an opportunity to investigate how the Crime Lab could be an enterprise fund and what it would take to be self-sufficient. Sheriff Balaam stated they had investigated achieving that by putting capital equipment in a restricted fund. He said it could be done but their concern

was the Crime Lab was very expensive to operate. Putting equipment in a restricted fund would force them to rely on grants that they were unsure would always be available.

Commissioner Hartung expressed his appreciation, stating this was an essential business and should be compensated for the services rendered. He said it could get to where it was an enterprise, and expansion could be possible if it was run like a business that obtained new clients.

Commissioner Jung mentioned the 3-year contract with the State and wondered whether the fees were prepaid or paid after the fact. Sheriff Balaam indicated the State paid annually.

Commissioner Jung asked Sheriff Balaam to send information to the Board about the positives and negatives of having centralized crime labs. She wanted information about how a restricted fund would work because this was done when the Health District reviewed their fees for different types of services performed. She stated an attorney/client meeting was needed regarding legal abilities and the political will to do this. She stressed this was a contractual issue. She did not want a summary, she wanted to meet and address strategy. She thought they might need to hire an outside consultant with extensive experience in this area.

Commissioner Jung brought up an idea to approach Tesla, Apple, Waste Management, and NV Energy to start an enterprise fund that would stabilize funding for the Crime Lab. She thought granting naming rights would be a benefit for participating businesses, and Tesla was in a good position since they did not have to stop production and their stock prices were high. She opined Tesla owed the County money for the giveaways they received to get them to come to the community. She thought having more than one plan was a good idea and wanted to share her suggestions with Sheriff Balaam; funding the Crime Lab would free up money in the General Fund to cover other expenses. She wanted Sheriff Balaam to highlight his employees in the Crime Lab because they were an extraordinary group of intelligent people.

On the call from public comment, County Clerk Nancy Parent read a series of emails between Mr. Jeff Church, Vice Chair Berkbigler, Commissioner Herman, former Commissioner David Humke, and former Sheriff Chuck Allen. In these emails dated between November 6, 2014 and May 17, 2020, Mr. Church repeatedly brings up the subsidization of the City of Reno with regard to Crime Lab services. He urged the Board to stop procrastinating and make a decision, claiming the County could no longer afford to subsidize the City of Reno. A copy of the email chain was placed on file with the Clerk.

Chair Lucey said this item sought direction from the Board to renegotiate the contract or work on a new agreement.

On motion by Vice Chair Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Sheriff Balaam, his staff, and Washoe County Management staff be directed to look at that agreement and decide whether to terminate it immediately or renegotiate whatever the idea was, and bring it back to the Board.

20-0321 **AGENDA ITEM 6** Appearance and presentation by Washoe County Sheriff Darin Balaam on COVID-19 conditions within the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Detention Facility.

Sheriff Darin Balaam introduced Chief Deputy Jeff Clark to present an update related to the detention facility and processes they were utilizing for COVID-19 (C19). Chief Deputy Clark conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk, and reviewed slides with the following titles: 2019 Annual Report; 2019 In-Custody Deaths; 2020 January – April 2020; COVID Precautions at the Washoe County Jail (2 slides); and Questions.

Chief Deputy Clark thanked the County Manager, Assistant County Managers, and the Board for their leadership during these trying times. He noted the report was delayed due to the C19 pandemic. He stated one of Sheriff Balaam's biggest focuses over the past year was increasing programs for inmate services that enhanced continuity of care and provided additional resources to reduce recidivism and the daily population. As a result, they established a detention services unit and medication assisted treatment within the facility. He indicated more than 440 inmates were transported to treatment programs the prior year, which resulted in a cost savings of more than \$4 million. He stated NavCare hired a full-time psych registered nurse to be added to an existing mental health unit that included a full-time psychiatrist and three full-time clinical social workers. He noted they applied for and were awarded two grant-funded positions: a licensed clinical social worker to be assigned to the Detention Services Unit and an additional discharge planner.

Chief Deputy Clark stated they increased training and awareness of mental health and suicide, not only with staff but with the inmate population as well. He mentioned they increased phone and email monitoring and thought it was important to target key words while monitoring. He explained that Sheriff Balaam started preparing a suicide report that monitored averted, attempted, and completed suicides each month. This report was in-depth and focused on the shift, the team, and locations of attempted suicides so staff was fully aware. He stated their goal was to have zero in-custody deaths, though national statistics of corrections indicated facilities sometimes had a difficult time combatting this issue. He mentioned more than 1,400 suicides were averted the previous year. Although he was not proud of in-custody deaths, he wanted the Board and Managers to know they took this very seriously and were working toward the goal of zero deaths. He believed the average daily population and bookings were reduced due to C19, but court administrators and other local agencies were also working to get ahead of the curve. He spoke about the five cases of C19 with staff and stated there were zero cases among inmates, which he credited to early precautions taken by following recommendations from the Health District and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Commissioner Herman said the detention center was being successfully run and exceeded her expectations.

Commissioner Hartung wondered about the 440 inmates Chief Deputy Clark mentioned and asked what program inmates were diverted into. Chief Deputy Clark replied it was a mixture of Crossroads, Northern Nevada Hopes, and anywhere treatment for mental health or addiction services could be found. Commissioner Hartung questioned the savings of \$4 million. Chief Deputy Clark acknowledged that was true. Commissioner Hartung said the Sheriff's Office was the poster child for why these programs should be funded. There was a direct cost benefit to the detention facility itself, not to mention the overwhelming cost benefit of saving lives and getting people back into society again. He hoped consideration would be given to how these programs could benefit the overall budget without being a drain.

Commissioner Jung thought Chief Deputy Clark was the walking, talking expert on all facilities that had open beds. She believed people were not being detained for fear of C19 outbreak in the jail. She said cages did not deter people; anyone could be detained but they were still going to do what they wanted to do as soon as they were released. If people were not inherently dangerous to themselves and others, she thought, caging them was a failure of society. She said diverting inmates to other beds could save money but also improve the lives of the inmates, which was what the Commissioners should be doing instead of spending taxpayers' money foolishly.

Commissioner Jung wanted Sheriff Balaam to provide the Board with information about transporting detainees to have face-to-face hearings with judges. She thought there was no reason to risk safety and costs by transporting inmates, which she believed to be an archaic practice. She asked for an overall update about planning for the future. She understood there were more issues to discuss about this subject but wondered about possible cost savings in the future.

Chair Lucey said he and Commissioner Jung went to St. Louis years ago to experience the daily operations at their jail. He agreed with Commissioner Jung that the programs inmates utilized after they had been incarcerated often decreased recidivism. He stated Commissioner Jung brought up a great point that the closure of the entire country for the past two months due to C19 could be considered an accelerator by forcing change. He said computers and the internet changed how people worked and lived, and this could provide the chance to change court proceedings going forward. He urged the Sheriff's Office and the Courts to continue seeking ways to be highly functional while saving money. He stated money saved by not transporting inmates to court proceedings could fund programs that were beneficial to the community, such as Sober 24, Crossroads, and many others. He thanked Chief Deputy Clark for the hard work he and staff did at the jail and said the facility was clean every time he visited it. He added the precautions being taken for C19 were fantastic.

Sheriff Balaam said he was working with the Courts and would continue to examine technology and how to reduce court transportation.

20-0322 **AGENDA ITEM 7** Appearance and presentation by Dave Solaro, Assistant County Manager and Eric Crump, Division Director - CSD Operations, for an update on Washoe County's COVID-19 operating plan for Regional Parks from May through August 2020.

Assistant County Manager Dave Solaro said it was important to provide the Board and citizens with an update about the operational strategy for Regional Parks and Open Space (Parks). He acknowledged Washoe County had the most professional Parks staff in the region. They worked tirelessly to address the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements, and other National Park Association publications about providing services and keeping staff and the community safe. He stated the guidelines for businesses required measures to ensure cleanliness, sanitation, and separation in County parks, and directives were provided through the Governor's Office regarding the amenities that could be opened during specific phases. He stated Division Director of Operations Eric Crump would provide an update on phases and park amenities opening, and said it was important to understand all the added measures necessary to keep staff and the public safe, which took additional time, procedures, and budget. He asked everyone to be patient as the County worked through the upcoming months.

Via the Zoom app, Mr. Crump conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk, and reviewed slides with the following titles: CSD Operational Plan; and Regional Parks & Open Space (5 slides).

Mr. Crump stated things were changing almost daily when the pandemic first hit the area. He reiterated Mr. Solaro's points about steps taken by Parks staff to make it easier for the community, adding they were working on the best information they could get at the time. During the initial response, he said Community Services Department staff developed some primary objectives to help guide all operations, including Parks. It was quickly realized that parks were booming and could play a critical role in the physical and mental well-being of the community as people navigated through the pandemic. He indicated it was critical that parks were open but safe. He explained they closed many park amenities in order to keep staff and the community safe but kept parks and trails largely available to the public. He indicated Parks staff continued working but had to put protective measures in place: discontinuing the sharing of vehicles, implementing wipe-down protocols for shared equipment, creating alternative work schedules to separate staff, providing protective equipment recommended by OSHA and the CDC, facilitating social distancing, and requiring employees to stay home when sick. As a result, the Operations Plan had been kept up to date online. He thanked the Board for allowing him to present and thanked the Parks staff for their hard work.

Vice Chair Berkgigler stated she was sorry to hear waterparks would be closed because the National Weather Service indicated it was going to be a hot year. She said she was afraid people would line up in her driveway to get to her swimming pool because it was open. She realized the situation the community was in but thought it was something they could not do anything about. She felt parks being open would be important

this year with more activities taking place. She thanked Parks for a good job and said she looked forward to an interesting summer.

Commissioner Hartung indicated he thought Wildcreek was still closed. He stated he wanted that area to be considered for a regional park if things did not work out for the golf course. He requested staff to come back with an option to deed restrict that property into perpetuity, although he did not know how that could be achieved legally. He expressed interest in the property being a regional park with an equestrian facility, since there was not one in the Sparks area. He noted trails lead up to Bureau of Land Management property above the course. He thought this could be the perfect time to look to the future since the pandemic was keeping places closed.

Chair Lucey thanked the Parks staff for a tremendous job maintaining the safety of the residents in the community during a very challenging time. He noted everyone was trying to figure things out as they went along. He stated they would keep everyone posted as the Governor released information about new phases. He expressed disappointment about difficult decisions and how the pandemic affected everyone differently, from children to businesses to vulnerable populations. It was a difficult thing for everyone involved, but he understood the decisions made provided the ability to go on in the coming years.

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

PROCLAMATIONS

20-0323 **8A** Proclaim May 17 - 23, 2020 as National Public Works Week.

Assistant County Manager Dave Solaro read the Proclamation. Via the Zoom app, Division Director of Operations Eric Crump said he would normally invite a group of people to accept this Proclamation. He thanked the Board for the recognition.

20-0324 **8B** Proclaim May 2020 as International Internal Audit Awareness Month.

Chair Lucey read the Proclamation. Via the Zoom app, Samantha Pierce thanked the Commissioners for recognizing the importance of the internal audit function and the independence afforded to this position. As objective reviewers of processes and data, staff could make better decisions for the organization.

20-0325 **8C** Proclaim May 2020 as Older Americans Month.

Vice Chair Berkgigler read the Proclamation. Via the Zoom app, Senior Services Director Steve McBride thanked the Board for the Proclamation. He stated Older Americans Month was celebrated every May and it was usually a very active month for seniors, but this year COVID-19 changed that. He said they asked seniors to be involved but stay distant as social distancing was very important for vulnerable populations and

seniors. He noted this year's theme was "Make Your Mark" and seniors had made their mark in many different and creative ways, such as checking on fellow seniors, making donations, and combatting the virus by staying home. While Senior Services looked forward to restarting programs with socialization, they still managed to enroll an additional 450 home delivered meal participants, serve meals at the congregate sites, and implement a grocery delivery program for those who needed a little extra assistance. He was pleased that seniors were supporting each other.

20-0326 **8D** Proclaim May 2020 as National Wildfire Awareness Month.

Chair Lucey read the Proclamation. Via telephone, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore thanked the Board. He thought the provision about residents being encouraged to move from the expectation of being protected from wildfire was very profound. He said it was a failed strategy to think fire trucks took care of the problem and everything was going to be okay. This truly was an issue where everyone needed to do their part with respect to helping prevent wildfires. He mentioned they were thankful to have a robust mutual aid system in northern Nevada and a great partnership with the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), and the region could not be better prepared. He noted citizens who acted to take care of themselves helped enhance safety.

Via the Zoom app, Chief Ryan Summers expressed appreciation for the Proclamation and for including the North Tahoe Fire Protection District as well. He said any and all education to prevent wildfires would make it a better year.

Via the Zoom app, Jamie Royce-Gomes, Manager of UNR Extension's Living with Fire Program, thanked the Board for proclaiming May as National Wildfire Awareness Month. She said wildfires could threaten Nevada communities and impact homes, property, and human life. The key to minimizing the wildfire impact in Nevada was proactive communities that took steps to prepare. In response, she stated, state and federal firefighting associations, wildfire prone communities, and the UNR Extension had conducted a wildfire campaign every May since 2006. This year their message was "Wildfire knows no boundaries, make yours". Due to COVID-19, it was important more now than ever to prepare for and reduce the threat of wildfire. While citizens were at home, there was no better time to create defensible space around the structure. She recommended creating a 5-foot area around each home free of combustible materials such as wood, mulch, dried leaves, pine needles, and flammable shrubs. She suggested planting flowers, succulents, irrigated lawn or ground cover, or using rock, concrete, brick, or pavers to reduce fire fuel. They encouraged residents to remove dead vegetation between five and thirty feet from the structure, and native shrubs and trees beyond 30 feet to provide a separation of at least 10 feet between shrubs and trees. They encouraged the community to prepare for wildfire, and more information about wildfire preparation was available at livingwithfire.com or by talking to local fire service representatives.

20-0327 **8E** Proclaim July 2020 as Lake Tahoe Wildfire Awareness Month.

Vice Chair Berkbigler read the Proclamation. She stated fire was an issue all over the community, but this related to the Lake Tahoe area because access in and out of the basin was a big concern. She said residents not only needed to create defensible space around the structure and have a fire safety plan in place, but it was just as important to have a plan to get out of the basin.

Via the Zoom app, Chief Ryan Summers thanked the Board for the Proclamation. He stated they were working on logistical issues to make the plan and have everyone on the same page. Thanks to the Parasol Foundation, he said, a pre-attack plan was being worked on and would be supplied to other agencies that assisted with fire suppression and helped keep citizens safe.

Chair Lucey thanked Chief Summers for his hard work protecting the citizens of North Lake Tahoe.

This item was not styled for possible motion, so no motion was made and no public comment was heard.

DONATIONS

20-0328 **9A** Recommendation to accept donations of [\$32,923.92] and in-kind donations [estimated value \$19,773.60] 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.)

20-0329 **9B** Recommendation to accept a one-time donation [value of \$1,752.00] from Western Nevada Supply for materials used at the Edison Housing site in response to COVID-19. (All Commission Districts.)

20-0330 **9C** Recommendation to accept one-time appreciation gift donations [estimated value of \$6,247.00] from private citizens to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

20-0331 **9D1** Recommendation to accept a donation from the Grace Community Church of Reno, a non-profit religious organization, to the Washoe County Human Services Agency in the amount of [\$50,000] to support clients who have completed the Crossroads Program and their transition back into the community and reunification; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)

20-0332 **9D2** Recommendation to (1) acknowledge various items donated totaling an estimated market value of [\$1,640.00]; (2) accept donations to Washoe County Human Services Agency to support child welfare activities in the amount of [\$1,680.00] retroactive for the period February 7, 2020 through March 31, 2020; and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)

20-0333 **9D3** Recommendation to (1) acknowledge various items donated totaling an estimated market value of [\$1,450.00]; and (2) accept donations to the Human Services Agency – Senior Services Fund to support operations of the Washoe County Senior Centers in the amount of [\$2,007.50] retroactive for the period February 22, 2020 through April 22, 2020; and direct the Comptroller to make the necessary budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)

Vice Chair Berkbigler expressed gratitude to the donors for these gracious donations. Chair Lucey stated it was amazing for businesses’ continued support in these times.

This item was not styled for possible motion, so no motion was made and no public comment was heard.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – 10A and 10B

20-0334 **10A** Recommendation to approve Commission District Special Fund disbursement in the amount of [\$10,000] for Fiscal Year 2019-2020; District 2 Commissioner Bob Lucey recommends a [\$5,000] grant to the Food Bank of Northern Nevada to purchase food to aid in the organization’s Covid 19 response and a [\$5,000] grant to Children’s Cabinet’s Emergency Fund to support families affected by the Covid 19 pandemic; approve Resolutions necessary for same; and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary disbursements of funds. Manager’s Office. (Commission District 2.)

20-0335 **10B** Recommendation to Acknowledge the Publication of Notice of Intent to Augment Budgets and approval of the attached resolution to augment the General Fund in the amount of [\$1,300,000] to appropriate FY20 FEMA Reimbursements and the Alternative Sentencing Department’s Revenue generated from previously unbudgeted sources for Fiscal Year 2020; and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the appropriate budget amendments (net impact to General Fund is zero). Manager’s Office. (All Commission Districts.)

Vice Chair Berkbigler indicated Agenda Item 10A was a donation from Chair Lucey and thanked him for the contribution.

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

On motion by Vice Chair Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 10A and 10B be approved. Any and all Resolutions or Interlocal Agreements pertinent to Consent Agenda Items 10A and 10B are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

20-0336 **AGENDA ITEM 11** Public Hearing on the intent of the Board of County Commissioners to issue General Obligation Limited Tax) Nevada Shared Radio System Bonds (additionally secured by pledged revenues) in the maximum principal amount of [\$15,000,000] to acquire, construct, improve and equip building projects as defined in NRS 244A.019 within the County; providing the manner, form and contents of the notices thereof; providing other matters properly related thereto; and providing the effective date hereof. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

The Chair opened the public hearing by calling on anyone wishing to speak for or against said items. There being no response, the hearing was closed.

Chair Lucey stated this was a housekeeping item that the Commissioners previously heard.

County Clerk Nancy Parent noted there was no need for a motion.

20-0337 **AGENDA ITEM 12** Public Hearing discussion and possible action on the Washoe County Tentative Budget, as well as possible changes to the adoption of the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2021; and approve the changes to position control for Fiscal Year 2021 indicated on Attachment A. This item may be continued to May 26, 2020 at 10:00 AM. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

The Chair opened the public hearing by calling on anyone wishing to speak for or against said item. There being no response, the hearing was closed.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Vice Chair Berkbigler, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 12 be adopted and approved.

20-0338 **AGENDA ITEM 13** Public Comment.

A voicemail from Ms. Annemarie Grant was played in the Chambers regarding Agenda Item 6, which was not styled for public comment. In it she stated she was the sister of Thomas Purdy, who was hogtied and killed at the Washoe County detention facility. She noted the update about COVID-19 (C19) was appreciated since they wanted to ensure the Commissioners were fulfilling their statutory obligations. She said

her brother was not killed while Sheriff Darin Balaam was in his position, but it happened under the same medical vendor who was providing services related to C19. She thought it was appalling that Sheriff Balaam took two \$5,000 contributions from NavCare days before the election took place. She wanted continued updates on how C19 was being handled at the detention facility. She expressed frustration about being blocked from the Sheriff's Office Facebook page because she wanted to see social media posts about what was happening. Citing Nevada Revised Statute 211.030, she asked the reports concerning the four deaths since Sheriff Balaam took office. She commented she provided information to the Commissioners about the care inmates received at the detention facility.

County Clerk Nancy Parent read an email from Mr. Jeff Church who was on the Zoom call but preferred that she read his email. In it, he claimed January 2019 records indicated the County voluntarily agreed to be tax assessed to subsidize the downtown Reno business improvement district (BID) at a cost of \$32,691, which he believed increased significantly in July of 2019. He urged this to stop, asking why the County was improperly giving away tax dollars to a private 501(c)(6) advocacy group. He felt this was a violation of the First Amendment rights of taxpayers who disagreed with the BID. Given the Governor's fiscal emergency declaration, he implored that the Board cut spending, including this \$32,691 giveaway.

20-0339 AGENDA ITEM 14 Announcements/Reports.

Chair Lucey wished everyone a safe and joyous Memorial Day weekend.

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12:40 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*