

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

JANUARY 21, 2020

PRESENT:

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

**Jan Galassini, Chief Deputy County Clerk**  
**Eric Brown, County Manager**  
**Nate Edwards, Assistant District Attorney**

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:55 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:

**20-0036**      **AGENDA ITEM 3** Introduction of new Washoe County Employees.

County Manager Eric Brown invited the following employees to introduce themselves to the Board:

Raquel DePuy Grafton – Health District  
Reginald Greer – Recorder’s Office  
Charrissa Hast – Treasurer’s Office  
Jessie Latchaw – Health District  
Francisco Vega – Heath District  
Danika Williams – Health District

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

**20-0037**      **AGENDA ITEM 4** Presentation of Excellence in Public Service Certificates honoring Washoe County employees who have completed essential employee development courses.

County Manager Eric Brown recognized the following employees:

**Promote Yourself! Mini Certificate Program**  
Alicia Berkbigler, Sheriff’s Office  
Biridiana Chaidez, Health District  
Fawna Gregory, Treasurer’s Office  
Samantha Wolcott, Reno Justice Court

**Essentials of High Performing Teams**

Diana Altura, District Attorney's Office  
Alicia Berkbigler, Sheriff's Office  
Nicholas Florey, Health District  
Fawna Gregory, Treasurer's Office  
Judith Maldonado, Human Services Agency

**Essentials of Management Development**

Jennifer Conlan, Community Service's Department  
Emily Ladouceur, Assessor's Office

**Essentials of Personal Effectiveness**

Diana Altura, District Attorney's Office  
Fawna Gregory, Treasurer's Office  
Jean Koster, Library  
Judith Maldonado, Human Services Agency  
Stephanie Martell, Assessor's Office

**Essentials of Support Staff**

Diana Altura, District Attorney's Office  
Emily Ladouceur, Assessor's Office  
Andrea Lee, District Attorney's Office  
Judith Maldonado, Human Services Agency  
Stephanie Martell, Assessor's Office

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

**20-0038**      **AGENDA ITEM 5** Washoe Leadership Program, Recognition Committee  
- Shining Star Recognition Award

County Manager Eric Brown presented certificates and recognized the following individuals:

**MARCH 2019**

James Burke, Jr. - Community Services Department\*  
Biridiana Chaidez (Mendoza) - Health District  
Asta Dominguez – Comptroller's Office  
Erin Logan - Manager's Office\*  
Jonathan Lujan - Clerk's Office  
Stephanie Mansfield - Assessor's Office\*  
Roxana Miller - Clerk's Office\*  
Carol (Lynnie) Shore - Health District\*  
Sonya Smith - Health District\*

**APRIL 2019**

Chantelle Batton - Health District\*  
Jeff Brooks - Animal Services\*

Susana Contreras - Assessor's Office\*  
Doni Gassaway - Clerk's Office  
Kimberly Graham - Health District\*  
Jeff Hoppe - District Attorney's Office\*  
Heather Kerwin - Health District\*  
Heidi Mittelstaedt-Nelson - Animal Services  
Mary (Maria) Rodriguez - Health District\*  
Jessi Salim - Health District\*  
Dwayne Smith - Community Service's Department\*  
Dawn Spinola - Health District\*  
Jeremy Wilson - Human Services Agency\*

**MAY 2019**

Jason Bogal - Technology Services\*  
Andrew Brown - Community Services Department  
Patricia Dyer - Community Services Department\*  
Idella Fields - Community Services Department\*  
Kelly Hvegholm - Technology Services\*  
Michael Lupan - Health District\*  
Kathie Maestas - Recorder's Office  
Wes Rubio - Health District\*  
Chris Sarman - Assessor's Office\*  
Lona Tette - Technology Services\*

**JUNE 2019**

Stephanie Gallop - Animal Services\*  
Clinton Nelms - Animal Services\*

\*employee was not present to accept the certificate.

**20-0039      AGENDA ITEM 6 Public Comment.**

Ms. Elise Weatherly spoke about the pursuit of the truth, prioritization, fire station consolidation, and local churches. She requested an open forum public debate with Summit Church representatives.

Mr. Michael Pitkin spoke about his family working in law enforcement. He said other jurisdictions used the public safety budget for retirement expenses and thought eventually every budget would be impacted. He opined a time would come when jurisdictions could no longer afford to arrest and incarcerate individuals for using drugs. He asked the Board to establish a harm reduction program and a location to perform studies on drug users. He wanted a housing program for practicing addicts who could meet monthly with a social worker or nurse. He thought a housing program could help determine how best to assist a person who had housing with developing better self-care. He opined crime would be reduced if adequate budgets were available to assist individuals find and retain jobs.

Ms. Judith Miller thanked the Commissioners for appointing Sarah Schmitz to the Incline Village General Improvement District Board of Trustees and thanked Senior Planner Kelly Mullin for her work on short-term rentals (STRs). She expressed concern about the overabundance of STRs in Incline Village, saying she thought there were more than 1,000 STRs in a community with a total of 7,800 dwelling units. She said she went to the last Planning Commission meeting and noted District 1 was not represented due to changes in the district. She stated a phrase was deleted from the Development Code about residential uses being primarily or wholly non-transient. She thought that phrase defined residential use and she asked for the language to be retained along with a clear definition.

Ms. Tammy Holt-Still expressed concern about rumors related to support of the lands bill. She opined the current infrastructure could not sustain additional development if the County decided to build on parcels received through the lands bill. She referred to Lemmon Valley as an example of infrastructure not being sustainable. She stated it was not the responsibility of individuals who purchased homes to ensure proper infrastructure was in place; it was the responsibility of the developers and the County. She said it was a closed basin and water could not continue to be pumped into the basin without flooding the area. Flooding started three years ago, she indicated, and the issues had not been resolved. She asserted Assistant County Manager Dave Solaro had stated the water would be gone by the end of the first summer, but that did not happen.

Chief Deputy County Clerk Jan Galassini noted an email from Ms. Annemarie Grant had been received and would be placed on the record.

**20-0040      AGENDA ITEM 7 Announcements/Reports.**

Commissioner Jung said Mr. Jim Severt spoke during public comment at the last meeting and explained he was the creator of the Biggest Little Bike Park in Sun Valley. She mistakenly thought the bike park was in her district, although she and Commissioner Herman had since decided to work on the project together. She said they were meeting with staff to address issues and move forward with the project. She said she, Commissioner Herman, and County Manager Eric Brown attended a Martin Luther King Jr. event and expressed pride in representing the County. She announced a Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board meeting would be held that evening at 6:00 p.m. at the Sun Valley Community Center. She encouraged elected department heads, the Sheriff, and the District Attorney to attend these meetings. She recognized that Commissioner Hartung served many years on the Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) in Spanish Springs.

Vice Chair Berkbigler noted she received emails that included newspaper clippings from the Nevada Independent that indicated Nevada Family Courts were overcrowded. She asked for a presentation, including possible solutions to resolve the overcrowding issue. She said the Family Court was so important to the community and she wanted to know the direction it was going. She announced she walked in the Reno Women's March held on Saturday, January 18, and said it was well-attended. They walked from the BELIEVE sign downtown to the Reno Event Center on 4th Street. She brought up the Incline Village CAB and, while CABs were created primarily to review planning

issues, she wanted them to be opened to general issues such as parking and traffic. She stated the issues were important to the community because there were not enough planning issues to justify holding a meeting more than once a year. She indicated Sun Valley was working towards that direction and she wanted the same for the Incline Village CAB.

Commissioner Hartung wanted staff to return with a presentation about the Spanish Springs storm water utility, including its history, the footprint of Sparks when it was enacted, and who built what. He wanted this storm water utility to be a potential model in the region. He thought the only way to successfully deal with storm water was to have several smaller utilities to retain, detain, or move water through the system. He remembered the flooding in Spanish Springs 33 years ago being worse than the worst flooding in the north valleys. He indicated Eagle Canyon Drive had five to six feet of water across the road and Pyramid Way had washed out. He thought it was time to have the conversation about the role that development partners would play with storm water utilities.

Commissioner Herman said each CAB faced the same issues because they had the same rules. She thought all CABs should include more topics of discussion other than development.

Chair Lucey agreed the CABs had issues and he received feedback from his constituents that they wanted the meetings to provide the ability to have discussions on other items. He explained each area had dynamic needs and discussion needed to occur about what each CAB needed to include in its meetings. He said some areas were more development driven than others. He mentioned Vice Chair Berkbigler brought up a report published by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges about how well the Family and District Courts were doing with the lack of staff. He stated the Family Court would have a new judge seated in November. He thought the Court Administrator could present information about the changes in staffing levels to accommodate the growth.

Chair Lucey announced the National Bowling Stadium reopened and had a ribbon-cutting ceremony along with free bowling for the public on Wednesday, January 15. He indicated the U.S. Bowling Congress would return to Reno for an annual event and the proposed attendance could be higher than anticipated. He said it represented about 100,000 room nights in addition to more retail and food purchases, which were important to the local economy. He noted many things that were initiated downtown were because of the U.S. Bowling Congress years ago. He thanked Washoe County and this Board for supporting the business improvement district and said the U.S. Bowling Congress recognized the dramatic change in the downtown area. He spoke about growth and increased economic development in the community with the sale of the Harrah's property to CAI Investments, which would change to a non-gaming property.

## **DONATIONS**

- 20-0041**      **8A** Recommendation to accept a one-time appreciation gift donation of 300 tri-tip individual meals [estimated value of \$6,000.00] from a private citizen to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)
- 20-0042**      **8B1** Recommendation to (1) acknowledge various items donated totaling an estimated market value of [\$5,376.00]; (2) accept donations to Washoe County Human Services Agency to support child welfare activities in the amount of [\$34,018.50] retroactive for the period November 1, 2019 through December 20, 2019; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)
- 20-0043**      **8B2** Recommendation to (1) acknowledge various items donated totaling an estimated market value of [\$457.00]; 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 [\$1,115.96] retroactive for the period November 1, 2019 through December 20, 2019; and direct the Comptroller to make the necessary budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Items 8A through 8B2 be accepted.

## **CONSENT AGENDA ITEM – 9A**

- 20-0044**      **9A** Recommendation to approve a Commission District Special Fund disbursement [in the amount of \$11,200] for Fiscal Year 2019-2020; District 1 Commissioner Marsha Berkbigler recommends a [\$11,200] grant to the Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID) to purchase animal resistant trash and recycle containers along Lakeshore Boulevard; approve Resolution necessary for the same; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary disbursement of funds. Manager's Office. (Commission District 1.)

On the call for public comment, Ms. Judith Miller noted trash was an issue in Incline Village and thanked the Board for contributing bear-proof containers. She expressed concern that the language in the Resolution was copied from the Incline Village General Improvement District's website. She thought they tended to refer to themselves as a quasi-public agency but she stated they were a quasi-municipal entity that was required to abide by the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS). She noted she would work with them directly on this matter. She provided a document, which was placed on file with the Clerk.

Vice Chair Berkbigler stated she received a message from Assistant County Manager Dave Solaro that stated the NRS defined a general improvement district as a quasi-municipal entity. She thanked Ms. Miller for bringing that to the Board's attention.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Item 9A be approved. The Resolution for same is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

**20-0045**      **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation to adopt a resolution directing the Clerk to notify the Washoe County Debt Management Commission of the County's proposal to issue its Washoe County, Nevada General Obligation (Limited Tax) Nevada Shared Radio System Bonds (additionally secured by pledged revenues) in the [maximum principal amount of \$15,000,000] for public safety projects: providing certain details in connection therewith; and providing the effective date hereof. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

Assistant County Manager Christine Vuletich recommended the Board adopt a Resolution directing the Clerk to notify the Washoe County Debt Management Commission of the County's proposal to issue General Obligation Bonds for the Nevada Shared Radio System. She reviewed the previous actions and background included in the staff report, and stated this was planned to conclude in July of 2020.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be adopted. The Resolution for same is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

**20-0046**      **AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommendation to acknowledge Preliminary Financial Outlook Report for the upcoming development of the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget; and possible direction to staff. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

Assistant County Manager Christine Vuletich and Budget Manager Lori Cooke conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. They reviewed slides with the following titles: General Fund FY 2019 Financial Results; General Fund – Fund Balance; GFOA Fund Balance Guidelines; General Fund FY 2020 Budget (3 slides); General Fund Mid-Year FY 2020; Preliminary Outlook FY 2021 General Fund History; Preliminary General Fund FY 2021 Budget; Revenue Trends; General Fund Property Tax; Consolidated Tax; General Fund Known Cost Increases; Unknown Impacts & Emerging Issues; Capital Needs; Summary; Recommendations; and Budget Timeline & Next Steps.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 11 be accepted.

**20-0047**      **AGENDA ITEM 12** Public Comment.

Ms. Elise Weatherly spoke about frustration, Excel Christian School, good businesses in the community, and her homeless daughter.

Mr. Wyn Ross expressed frustration about the management of the Community Services Department. He indicated important data from a hydrological study was discarded after he made many unsuccessful attempts to preserve the data when the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) and the Washoe County Department of Water Resources merged five years prior. He wondered whether the new County Manager was aware of the basin resource investigations that occurred 25 years ago. Mr. Ross stated he had many requests for the data over the past five years but he had to explain the information was lost. He spoke regarding a statement Tammy Holt-Still had previously made about her husband accessing precipitation data from the Stead Airport, which was used to try to help explain the flooding at Swan Lake. He provided documents, which were placed on file with the Clerk.

**20-0048**      **AGENDA ITEM 13** Announcements/Reports.

County Manager Eric Brown said he was previously included in many municipal budgets for counties and cities of various sizes, and he thought the County should be commended for its fiscal discipline and stewardship. The financial team impressed him, and he thought the County was in good hands. He spoke about an assessment the Board asked him to conduct after his first six months of employment but said he was not yet ready to present it. He mentioned concerns about technology systems coming to the end of life but there were opportunities for the County to operate more efficiently and provide better services. He said he would meet individually with the Commissioners over the next few weeks.

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**12:32 p.m.** There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

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**BOB LUCEY**, Chair  
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

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

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