

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

FEBRUARY 11, 2020

PRESENT:

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

Nancy Parent, County Clerk
Eric Brown, County Manager
David Watts-Vial, Assistant District Attorney

ABSENT:

Kitty Jung, Commissioner

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:

20-0073 **AGENDA ITEM 3** Appearance: Amy Cummings, Interim Director, Regional Transportation Commission, Presentation by the Regional Transportation Commission on the process for development of the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) with discussion and possible requests to be included in the plan.

Interim Director for the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) Amy Cummings conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: 2050 Regional Transportation Plan; Public & Agency Outreach; 2050 Regional Transportation Plan Public & Agency Outreach Process; What is your Vision?

Ms. Cummings said the RTC had launched the 2050 RTP. In addition to the presentation, this item was to ask the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for input about priorities they wanted the RTC to address during the year-long process of developing the plan. She hoped a draft would be completed by fall of 2020, noting they were required to complete a plan by May 2021. She planned to provide an updated draft to the BCC during the summer. She expressed appreciation for County staff participation in the Agency Working Group which met every other month. She said the planned Inter-County Working Group would work with partners in Storey County, Carson City, the Lake Tahoe area, Placer County, and some counterparts in California to get input on infrastructure needs to tie the entire region together.

Ms. Cummings noted staff input was reflected in the issue-based workshops which would be conducted to complement the regional working group. She said the RTC received requests to assess future connectivity with the North Valleys and they planned to review safety issues and connectivity throughout that area. The focus would be on safety with input from youth in the region, including middle school, high school, and college students. She noted the previous transit vision included the Virginia Street extension to the University of Nevada, Reno, so she was pleased that project would be completed by the end of the year. She mentioned a meeting was scheduled for February 26 to discuss the Sparks Industrial Roadway Network.

Chair Lucey thanked Ms. Cummings for the presentation. He said two Commissioners were on the RTC Board, so he wanted to allow other Commissioners an opportunity to offer input for the RTP.

Vice Chair Berkbigler expressed enthusiasm that the North Valleys roadway network was on the list of priorities for the RTP. She thought the Master Plan demonstrated there would be significant growth in the North Valleys over the next five to ten years. It was important to ensure the highways and roadways would support the expected growth. She noted some work needed to be completed sooner while other work could be phased in with development. Transportation safety was another major concern she was pleased to see on the list of priorities. She said there had been an abnormally high number of vehicle accidents involving pedestrians since the school year began. She mentioned mobile phone distractions were an issue, but she thought improving road safety would help significantly. She thanked Ms. Cummings for the presentation.

Commissioner Hartung mentioned the rapid growth taking place in Spanish Springs. He noted the RTP did not include Pyramid Highway, Sparks Boulevard, or Vista Boulevard, which were the main roads to and from Spanish Springs. He said even small changes would make a big difference, such as extending the third lane on Pyramid Highway to Disc Drive. He recognized traffic was only a significant issue during certain times of day, but it was nevertheless an issue. He requested information about the cause of a major accident that occurred on February 7 at Pyramid Highway and David James Boulevard. He understood Pyramid Highway was a right of way for the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), but he was unaware of why speed limits were increased from 45 to 55 miles per hour. He stated NDOT had not discussed the speed limit change with any other agency and he believed the issue needed to be reviewed in the context of ensuring roadway safety.

Commissioner Herman was pleased to see the roads for the North Valleys were on the priority list because they were in poor condition. She expressed consternation about the flashing light at the intersection of Pyramid Highway and Calle De La Plata because it confused people; she regularly heard complaints about it. She believed it made sense before there was a stop light at the intersection, but it had since become confusing to drivers. Ms. Cummings said Commissioner Hartung raised the issue to NDOT at the RTC Board meeting, and they were expected to provide an update about the light during the regular February RTC Board meeting.

Vice Chair Berkbigler expressed concern about traffic issues in Incline Village. She acknowledged some roads going up to Incline Village were in the State's jurisdiction and not the responsibility of the RTC. She noted residents of Incline Village paid gas tax like everyone else but received limited resources. She stated traffic had increased as more day-trippers visited, particularly during the summer. She requested the RTC work with County transportation staff and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency as part of the RTP to assess what might relieve traffic in Incline Village and Crystal Bay.

Commissioner Hartung mentioned he had been insistent about the issue of flashing lights on Pyramid Highway and Calle De La Plata. He said it was a safety issue. He made NDOT aware of the issue because he believed the RTC needed to advocate for consistency.

Chair Lucey believed the RTC was the regional metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the entire county. He thought transportation was at the forefront of any design and development. He said getting people to and from new developments and considering future road infrastructure were issues of significant concern. He thought a broad understanding of future regional needs was necessary when considering new roads. He suggested more regular meetings with the RTC, NDOT, the County, and the Cities of Reno and Sparks would be necessary to develop a more cohesive understanding of community needs. He noted many County residents were not aware that NDOT owned and maintained a number of thoroughfares in District 2. He thought County and RTC staff needed to work with NDOT to identify some of those roads and determine how future maintenance might be performed more effectively. He agreed with Vice Chair Berkbigler regarding Mount Rose and Incline Village being parts of the community whose residents paid gas tax and had road issues requiring attention. He pointed out Mount Rose Highway was a state highway, there were RTC thoroughfares connected to the highway, and there were planned County roads which would be conduits onto those thoroughfares. He asserted more regular communication about planning was necessary for the RTC to be the MPO for transportation. He said road safety was a serious concern as developments expanded roads in the county. He mentioned school zones would increase as new schools were added to the community and follow-through would be needed to make the Vision Zero project possible. He recommended working with the Washoe County School District to ensure school zones were adequate. He noted some drivers and pedestrians would inevitably be distracted by their mobile phones and those concerns needed to be addressed in the RTP.

Ms. Cummings said the RTC would consider increasing the amount of sales tax provided to Transit for the Tahoe Area, which provided transit services for Incline Village. They would also review the fuel tax provided to Incline Village in coordination with the County.

Chair Lucey said different funding sources needed to be considered because fuel-saving vehicles would affect fuel tax, which was the primary funding source for the RTC.

20-0074 **AGENDA ITEM 4** Public Comment.

Mr. George Lee urged the Board to keep the flashing warning light on Pyramid Highway because the stop light was not visible from the other side of the hill. He suggested changing the frequency of the flashing to help differentiate from the stop light. He expressed support for the addition of funds to the Wildcreek Golf Course rebuilding project. He thought the golf course needed to be usable to the community, including by the First Tee of Northern Nevada youth development program. He believed the driving range was necessary, even if more money was required to put up a net separating it from the school property.

Ms. Darla Lee believed the Sparks City Manager sent a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to the County regarding the protection of the Wildcreek Golf Course in perpetuity. She said local residents requested and supported the MOU. She encouraged the Board to sign the MOU as it would ensure residents that the Board was concerned about open space and affordable recreation.

Ms. Carol Burns welcomed County Manager Eric Brown to the community. She mentioned she contacted the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) and the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) about Sun Valley Boulevard. She expressed concern because the sage growing on the side of the road created a fire hazard, but NDOT told her they were unable to cut it down because it was the state flower. She said the RTC reported they would build sidewalks in Sun Valley, but she was disappointed that the area between East 1st Avenue and East 7th Avenue was not included in the plan.

Ms. Katherine Snedigar agreed the flashing lights on Pyramid Highway were confusing. She mentioned the Building and Safety Department still required permits for residents to keep containers on their property. She pointed out the issue was decided approximately one year earlier. She asked why the issue was not written into the Code and why staff was unaware of changes in the County Code.

Mr. Michael Moreno said he was the Chair of the Washoe County Complete Count Committee. He mentioned the 2020 Census would begin on March 12. He indicated households would receive up to four postcards from March 12 through April 30 encouraging them to participate in the Census. He noted Census participation was required by law, and it was secure and confidential. The information collected by the Census would not be shared with any other agency and there were severe penalties if information was shared. He said Census data was only released after 72 years had elapsed. He said citizens were asked to complete the Census online, although they would be able to request a paper form or complete it via phone if they preferred. He indicated everyone needed to be counted because funding for programs was based on Census data.

County Clerk Nancy Parent stated she received email correspondence from Elise Weatherly on January 29 and from Annemarie Grant on February 11, copies of which were placed on the record for the meeting.

20-0075 **AGENDA ITEM 5** Announcements/Reports.

County Manager Eric Brown announced two events concerning the Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act were scheduled the following week. There would be an Open House on Tuesday, February 18 and a public meeting on Thursday, February 20. Both events would be held at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. He noted additional information was available online at landsbill.org

Commissioner Herman mentioned the data gathered during the Census was used to apportion federal funds to the County. She said the County would receive \$20,000 for each person counted. She spoke about a resident trying to start a preschool in Lemmon Valley who experienced difficulties with the County. She hoped staff could facilitate the process. She mentioned a considerable number of complaints had been lodged because residents of Palomino Valley allowed their animals to wander. She requested that Animal Services staff review the situation. She noted the Sheriff's Office was asked to remove illegally dumped vehicles, but it was an unfunded mandate. She requested the issue be agendaized for a future meeting.

Chair Lucey asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Mayor Bob Cashell who was a great friend to the County and the region. There followed a moment of silence. The Chair extended condolences to the Cashell family.

Commissioner Hartung thanked staff for creating a sphere of influence rollback map relatively quickly when requested to do so. With regards to Mr. George Lee's public comment, he said flashers would not be removed. He suggested staff might need to reevaluate the limit lines on Calle De La Plata, and the Sheriff's Office needed to be made aware if people were not obeying the law.

Commissioner Hartung said he and Mr. Brown attended a promotion ceremony for the Sheriff's Office the prior day. He congratulated Frank Eubanks who was promoted to the rank of lieutenant, and Dan Bales, Peter Michel, Martin Obos, and Levi Smith who were promoted to the rank of sergeant.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – 6A THROUGH 6C

20-0076 **6A** Acknowledge the communications and reports received by the Clerk on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners. Clerk. (All Commission Districts.)

20-0077 **6B** Recommendation to acknowledge receipt of the Interim Financial Report for Washoe County Governmental Funds for the Six Months Ended December 31, 2019 - Unaudited. Comptroller's Department. (All Commission Districts.)

20-0078 **6C** Recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to retroactively acknowledge a grant award of [\$20,000, no County match

required], awarded to the Second Judicial District Court from the Lee F. Del Grande Foundation, retroactive from January 1, 2020 through May 31, 2020 for the Family Peace Center; and direct the Comptroller to make the necessary budget amendments. District Court. (All Commission Districts.)

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

On motion by Vice Chair Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 6A through 6C be approved.

20-0079 **AGENDA ITEM 7** Recommendation to award a bid and approve the Agreement to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder for the Bowers Mansion Repairs - Phase III Project [staff recommends Sullivan Structures LLC., in the amount of \$510,840.00]. Community Services. (Commission District 2.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7 be awarded and approved.

20-0080 **AGENDA ITEM 8** Recommendation to award a bid and approve the Agreement to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder for the 911 Parr - Housing Unit # 4 Air Handler Replacement Project [staff recommends ACCO Engineered Systems, Inc., in the amount of \$687,586] and approve bid alternates 1 & 2 totaling \$12,036.00 and approve a separate \$25,000 contingency fund [for a total project amount of \$724,622]. Community Services. (Commission District 3.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 8 be awarded and approved.

20-0081 **AGENDA ITEM 9** Recommendation to approve the Resolution to augment the Golf Course Fund in the amount of [\$2,903,000.00] to increase Fiscal Year 2020 budget authority for the Wildcreek Golf Course project; and direct the Comptroller to make the necessary budget amendments. Community Services. (Commission District 5.)

Commissioner Hartung asked about the source of funds for this item. Assistant County Manager Dave Solaro stated Washoe County received \$3,138,910.63 in July of 2019 for the sale of water rights and property to the Washoe County School District. The funds were set aside in the Golf Course Enterprise Fund for rehabilitation of the Wildcreek Golf Course.

On the call for public comment, Ms. Darla Lee urged the Board to approve the recommendation. She believed the Wildcreek Golf Course would not be able to maintain the driving range without the added funds. She said the Wildcreek Golf Course was the headquarters for the First Tee of Northern Nevada youth development program and it would be an asset for high school students.

Mr. George Lee mentioned the reverse syphon for the Orr Ditch appeared to be close to completion. He said the ditch separated the golf course and school properties. He noticed the agenda said the funds would augment the golf course fund and he hoped it meant the money would be added to the project. He thought the driving range was necessary and he supported the augmented funds for the golf course.

Ms. Darlene Hesse expressed appreciation for the augmented budget for the golf course. She hoped the money would be segregated for the golf course. She expressed concern for the animals living on the golf course. She believed the open area needed to be protected so it could be enjoyed by people and animals. She observed many golfers used the golf course and she thought it could earn significant revenue.

Mr. Wesley Griffin mentioned he spoke in favor of saving the Wildcreek Golf Course during prior meetings. He asserted the golf course was a County treasure and even residents who did not play golf supported saving it. He spoke about an open house meeting held in October 2017 where golf professionals discussed the number of holes required to sustain golf in the area. He believed the golf course was needed because many residents would not be able to afford to play golf without a public course. He did not agree with statements about the golf course needing to be self-sustaining, and he urged the Board to approve Agenda Item 9.

On motion by Vice Chair Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 9 be approved. The Resolution for Agenda Item 9 is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof

20-0082 **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation to approve the Owner-CMAR Construction Agreement between Washoe County and Q&D Construction, LLC, for Guaranteed Maximum Price #5 for Buildings 600/601 for the Our Place Homeless Housing Project [in the amount of \$2,839,254.00]. Community Services. (Commission District 3.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be approved.

20-0083 **AGENDA ITEM 11** Public Comment.

Ms. Katherine Snedigar clarified the vehicle accident that occurred on February 7 on Pyramid Highway took place when traffic was light. She believed the accident was the result of driver error and the speed limit was not a factor. She stated the 55 mile per hour speed limit was determined by the public and she deemed it a safe speed for that road. She expressed frustration that vehicle accidents involving pedestrians were considered solely the responsibility of drivers. She asked why pedestrians were not taught to wear reflective clothing at night. She believed children needed to be taught road and vehicle safety. She expressed frustration that the Washoe County Code regarding containers had not been amended yet.

20-0084 **AGENDA ITEM 12** Announcements/Reports.

County Manager Eric Brown said Agenda Item 10 was the final installment on the upgrade of the Our Place development. He acknowledged the significant progress made on the project.

Assistant District Attorney David Watts-Vial thanked the Commissioners for their warm welcome. He expressed appreciation to Washoe County District Attorney Christopher Hicks for offering him the position and congratulated former Assistant District Attorney Paul Lipparelli on his retirement. He said Mr. Lipparelli set a very high standard. He announced that Nate Edwards was the new Chief Civil Deputy District Attorney. He expressed appreciation for working with some of the best attorneys in the County and he looked forward to representing the Board of County Commissioners.

Chair Lucey requested an update from staff regarding the opioid lawsuit, as well as outside counsel firms Bradley, Drendel & Jeanney and Eglet Prince, LLP. He asked staff to contact the Washoe County School District to coordinate town hall meetings to speak with parents and children about traffic safety. He said it was an opportunity for the County to perform outreach about community issues.

* * * * *

11:05 a.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:
Carolina Stickleby, Deputy County Clerk