

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

MAY 11, 2021

PRESENT:

Bob Lucey, Chair
Vaughn Hartung, Vice Chair
Alexis Hill, Commissioner
Kitty Jung, Commissioner
Jeanne Herman, Commissioner

Janis Galassini, County Clerk
Eric Brown, County Manager
David Watts-Vial, Assistant District Attorney

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:02 a.m. in regular session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerk called the roll and the Board conducted the following business:

Chair Lucey stated he wanted to ensure every member of the public had the opportunity to speak. He announced masks were required in Chambers, though they could be removed when people spoke at the podium; there would not be a second chance if he had to ask an audience member to leave.

21-0329 **AGENDA ITEM 3** Appearance and presentation by Reno-Tahoe Airport CEO, Mr. Daren Griffin to provide an update and overview of current business operations at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport.

Mr. Daren Griffin, Chief Executive Officer of the Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority (RTAA), conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. He reviewed slides with the following titles: Who We Are (2 slides); *Perfect* Time to be a New CEO; Operating Expenses; Operating Revenues; RNO Annual Passengers; This Summer – RNO is Taking Off; May 2021 Schedule; Example: Long Haul Connections; Regional Marketing Efforts; Airport Improvements/Investments; Conrac – West Façade; New Ticket Lobby; Development at Reno-Stead Airport; and Thank you.

Mr. Griffin indicated Jessica Sferrazza was the Chair of the 9-member RTAA Board of Trustees, which represented Washoe County, the Cities of Reno and Sparks, and the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitor’s Authority (RSCVA). He thanked the Board for sending Nat Carasali and Lisa Gianola to represent them. He explained Mr. Carasali was nearing the end of his eight-year service and had been instrumental in helping fund air service retention and attraction; he looked forward to welcoming Mr. Carasali’s replacement during a later agenda item. He praised Ms. Gianola’s financial expertise and

knowledge of government, adding she was available on the Zoom app. He noted 3,000 employees typically worked at the airport in a good year, and they were working to get back up to those numbers.

Mr. Griffin expressed appreciation for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility, which enabled them to staff the airport's flights to Guadalajara. He acknowledged the current difficulty with international travel. He emphasized nothing had a greater impact on the air travel industry than the pandemic, and every airport had to slash costs. He noted the mask requirement would still be in effect through September at the airport and onboard all aircraft. He lauded frontline essential workers, particularly the custodial staff who worked hard to combat viruses. There had been a lot of turnover, with many staff members retiring and others leaving voluntarily because they did not want to work in a public transportation facility during a pandemic; this created an opportunity to save money. He said consumer confidence was rising after the vaccination program was ramped up, surprising the RTAA with how many chose to fly for spring break. He added Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act monies were used to fund payroll, expenses directly related to the pandemic, and debt service.

Mr. Griffin surmised the airport had not seen ridership as low as during calendar year (CY) 2020 in decades. He announced they were averaging between 75 to 80 percent of CY 2019 passenger levels, 10 to 15 percent higher than other airports in the country. People were drawn to the blend of outdoor activities, leisure offerings, and nightlife in the area. He noted many economists were predicting a three-to-five-year recovery period, but he felt the Reno-Tahoe International Airport (RNO) would experience the low end of that prediction. He hoped to see new passengers traveling for work who had not done so before, adding he would not be surprised if the number of passengers per year climbed to 7 million in the next decade.

Mr. Griffin indicated most airports responded to the pandemic by reducing flights, grounding airplanes, and separating employees. Despite stripping services down to the bare minimum, RNO saw a steady return of non-stop flights; they anticipated tying or breaking their record for most non-stop destinations by July. He stressed the importance of reestablishing long-haul flights to hub airports, which would improve connectivity to the rest of the world. Direct flights to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and Charlotte, North Carolina would open in the summer. The North Carolina flight would allow 80 more cities to visit Reno with only one stop. Instead of trying to increase the number of flights, he said, the RIAA was working to get people in airplanes. He stated the RSCVA was a major partner in making new markets such as Charlotte, Atlanta, and New York aware of the product offerings in the Reno-Tahoe region.

Mr. Griffin opined airport projects should not stop when business turned bad because they could take a while to complete. He explained Stellar Aviation Group was making a \$25 million investment in business aviation, an investment any airport would love to have. JSX used Stellar for several of their flights to southern California. He mentioned they were involved in a two-year planning and design study to determine how

to proceed in updating the two concourses. He noted they were expanding the rental car operation, which had grown during the pandemic, and reviewing some of the other expected landside facilities. Additionally, the airlines were spending \$20 million to expand the ticket lobby, including a new restroom and higher ceilings.

Mr. Griffin stated the Reno-Stead Airport experienced steady business, not seeing the peaks and valleys others felt during the pandemic. He described the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA's) approval of the Lemmon Drive Utility Corridor as a milestone; the FAA was reviewing a template easement which the RIAA would use with every utility provider. Regarding the Dermody Properties Industrial Development project, they were halfway done with an environmental assessment for phase 1, at which point they would do the same for the Moya Drive North/South Utility Corridor Extension. He concluded by saying the runway, the airport's most important asset, was closed until October due to a \$50 million federal investment.

Chair Lucey thanked Mr. Griffin and welcomed him to Reno.

21-0330 **AGENDA ITEM 4** Update from outside counsel for Washoe County on various opioid litigation related cases and issues including (1) Washoe County v. Teva Pharmaceuticals, et. al., CV20-01142, filed in the Second Judicial District Court; (2) the status of national opioid litigation cases in other jurisdictions; (3) update on a settlement between the State of Nevada and other states with McKinsey and Co.; (4) discussion on developments in opioid related bankruptcy filings by opioid companies including Purdue Pharma and (5) update on a possible bankruptcy plan currently being drafted in the Purdue Pharma bankruptcy case. Robert Eglet and Richard Hy, Eglet Adams. (All Commissioner Districts.)

Chair Lucey indicated Agenda Item 4 would be pulled from the agenda.

21-0331 **AGENDA ITEM 5** Appearance and presentation by Andrew Jayankura, P.E., PTOE, Project Manager, of the Regional Transportation Commission Washoe (RTC Washoe) to provide an update regarding the RTC Washoe's traffic signal timing program. (All Commission Districts.)

Andrew Jayankura, Project Manager for the Truckee Meadows traffic signal timing project, conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: What to be Covered; Program History (2 slides); Why Traffic Synchronization; How Does the Signal Timing Process Work (2 slides); Pyramid Hwy Traffic Progression; Major Achievements; South Meadows Pkwy Re-Timing; Impacts of Traffic Signal Synchronization; Sample Emissions/Cost Savings; How many Greens per Red; Public and Agency Feedback; UNR Experience – Professor Zong Tian; UNR Experience – Former Student; We are here to Help; and Thank You.

Mr. Jayankura explained he had prepared a video showing the progress of traffic in Sparks, though it was not played in Chambers. The video would have showed

traffic traveling in both directions between Disc Drive and Los Altos Parkway, hitting green lights along the way. He said the length of time for pedestrian crossings had been increased to accommodate people with disabilities. He described another video showing the updated traffic timing in the South Meadows area, which had decreased the time it would take to get from South Meadows Parkway through Double R Boulevard from over four minutes to 70 seconds.

Mr. Jayankura explained it was more detrimental to impede the traffic on main streets, so lights were timed to reduce the length of green lights on side streets. Signal timing was re-evaluated every three years to account for changes in traffic demand and patterns; this was especially important as more people moved to the area. Citing the social media post included in the presentation, he said that came shortly after the lights were retimed on North McCarran Boulevard. He introduced University of Nevada, Reno professor Zong Tian.

Mr. Tian explained he started building UNR's transportation program from scratch in 2004, saying they would not be here without the support of the RTC. He remarked it took several years to develop the skill of signal timing, and he felt UNR's program gave students the tools to be among the top 5 percent of engineers in the field. He spoke about Logan Williams, a graduate of the program, who was offered a Senior Engineer position even though that position typically required a minimum of three years' experience. He noted Mr. Williams was hired because of his special skills and knowledge. He hoped the Board could watch the video about him later.

Chair Lucey thanked them for the presentation. In response to Vice Chair Hartung's comment that he did not hit four straight green lights on the way to the meeting, Mr. Jayankura noted Pyramid Highway had not been retimed in three years and was slated to be retimed soon.

21-0332 **AGENDA ITEM 6** Public Comment. Comment heard under this item will be limited to three minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the Commission agenda. The Commission will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to three minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the Commission as a whole.

Ms. Valerie White played a video on her phone in which she asked the Board to open the county up with no mask or social distancing requirements. She told stories about some of the physical and mental trauma encountered by children, saying that, without in-person school teachers, the number of mandated reporters dropped during the pandemic even though instances of abuse had increased. She opined children caught the brunt of bad government decisions and she asked that the county be opened.

Ms. Tracey Thomas read from the Bible. She said she made several attempts to bring attention to flaws in Washoe County's election processes. She felt failure to act would leave the Board legally and financially liable. She pointed out the Registrar of Voters

was not elected, and the Board had the privilege of guiding how elections were run. She believed use of the current vendor should be paused until litigation was complete; only paper ballots should be used in 2022.

Mr. Roger Edwards said masks were ineffective and manipulative. He mentioned the water recharge system in Golden Valley had been shut down for four years and requested suspending the monthly charge for a couple of years to give a chance to see how the water table was working. He asked that the Board get rid of the mask mandate.

Ms. Kathy Kyte told a story of a first-grade teacher's struggle with children who were upset and listless as a result of wearing masks. She expressed some of her concerns with masks, including plants no longer being able to receive the exhalations of humans, along with dental issues and a loss of freedom. She thought mask requirements were about control, and she wondered about the motives of the Board.

Ms. Diane Craig said it required courage to not wear a mask in public and she felt awkward when she took hers off in larger businesses. She opined the Commissioners were abiding by mask mandates out of fear of consequences by Governor Steve Sisolak. She questioned why \$800,000 was being spent for a permanent testing and vaccine site when vaccines were available at drugstores.

Ms. Janet Butcher compared Washoe County with Polk County, Iowa by showing photos of people in Iowa not wearing masks. She felt Washoe County residents should enjoy those freedoms. She asked the Board to lift the public health emergency, give fun back to children, and let the public enjoy sports again. Copies of her photographs were placed on file with the Clerk.

Ms. Jeanne Quintana said this area was in a unique position as a destination city, and the Board should be at the forefront by giving people choices. She claimed no science existed showing that the pandemic was still happening. She agreed there should be a pause in the use of current voting machines until the next election, when she suggested paper ballots or new machines should be used.

Ms. Rita Pepi noted the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) had voted 4 to 1 to approve the Washoe County roadmap for recovery and mitigation measures, saying she was confused why they voted on it if they could not lift the public health emergency. She wanted to see ID requirements for voting, a cleanup of the voter rolls, and absentee ballots used only for those who could not make it to the polls.

Ms. Deena Lane read a story from the Bible about the punishment that should befall people who caused children to sin. She asked the Board to lift the mask edict and reopen the county fully because children were suffering.

Ms. Katie Burke showed a photo of a baby wearing a mask and spoke about her special needs four-year-old son. She begrudged having to make a choice between sending her child to school with a mask or reducing his opportunities for social interaction.

She thought babies should not wear masks and the Board had the power to open the county. She appreciated the difficult decisions the Board had to make but alleged negative stories about the vaccine were being censored. She expressed frustration about having to pass through a medical detector to get into Chambers.

Ms. Kim Mack stated humans would not be a species without viruses as evolutionary tools and questioned whether colonizing human biology was the direction society should go. She stated nature's goal was balance and the virus was nature's call for change. She said people who did not believe in altering human design were shunned, and she expressed concern about vaccines and vaccine passports. She said she would not consent to the control of men over her body.

Ms. Cindy Martinez displayed an image, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. She expressed skepticism that a gas pipeline could be a hacked, but a voting machine could not be. She demanded the BCC end the declaration of emergency. She read from the staff report about the \$800,000 bid for a vaccine pod, saying she believed it was a criminal racketeering enterprise.

Mr. Donald Fossum spoke about the removal of the Aunt Jemima character from packaging, saying voices were being silenced through mask mandates. He believed lockdowns were controlling people into silence.

Ms. Kaylynn Sutton said germs from people's hands went from their masks to their faces, and children might have trouble paying attention in school because of masks. She told a story about her cousins who could not eat their lunches with their friends and had to wear masks during recess. She spoke about being unable to tell someone's emotions without being able to see their face.

Ms. Melanie Sutton indicated she used to coach softball for her daughter, but she would not let her daughter wear a mask to play softball. She spoke out against paper masks and claimed masks in general did not do anything. She felt people should choose whether to wear masks or get vaccines.

Ms. Katherine Snedigar provided a handout, copies of which were distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. She claimed COVID-19 (C19) was a hoax and the Board did not have the authority to require people to wear masks. She expressed concern about the weakening of children's immune systems. She requested proof that C19 was real and wanted the Board to protect the health and safety of the public.

Mr. Kenji Otto commented freedoms had been taken away over the last year. He acknowledged the BCC could not remove the mask mandate, only the Governor could. He planned to attend the next open School District Board of Trustees meeting to inform them he was trying to have them removed. He recognized the BCC could not remove District Health Officer Kevin Dick either, but he implored Chair Lucey to do so as the Vice Chair of the Health District Board. He suggested that audience members should not have to go through the metal detector again after using the bathroom.

Ms. Nicol Herris was called but was not present to speak.

County Clerk Jan Galassini announced that emails received from Ms. Carol Fineberg and Laurel Allen would be placed on the record.

Via the Zoom app, Mr. Chase Janvrin, program manager for the Tahoe Prosperity Center, brought up the \$30,000 to help fund the Washoe Tahoe Housing Partnership (WTHP), which would be addressed in Agenda Item 9. He noted jurisdictions and residents convened on the south shore the prior year to help identify strategies to add housing options. The WTHP would conduct a similar needs assessment for the Incline Village/Crystal Bay area, the last Tahoe area to complete that analysis. He encouraged the BCC to support those efforts.

21-0333 **AGENDA ITEM 7** Commissioners’/County Manager’s announcements, reports and updates to include boards and commissions updates, requests for information or topics for future agendas.

County Manager Eric Brown noted Commissioner Hill requested that Agenda Item 8C4 be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Herman requested a resolution on a future agenda to remove Washoe County from the facemask mandate. She confirmed the difficulty encountered by the public when trying to call the 328-2005 County number, so she provided her County, home, and cell numbers. Regarding the Golden Valley water recharge, she thought it would be fair to stop payments on a temporary basis as requested by Mr. Roger Edwards. She said she received numerous complaints about the flood barriers in Lemmon Valley. If the barriers were removed and another storm happened, she noted, people would have to suffer through another flood, which she did not think was fair. She asked that a forensic audit be performed on the past election, saying it would prove election integrity.

Vice Chair Hartung asked for a presentation from Waste Management about their status and the status of single-stream recycling. He also wished to ask them if they had to deal with garbage coming from trucks traveling from California.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – 8A1 THROUGH 8D

21-0334 **8A1** Recommendation to approve the reappointment of Clay Thomas to the Washoe County Board of Adjustment to represent Commission District 3 (unincorporated County area of District 3 generally includes portions of Panther Valley south of Sagehen Lane; and Sun Valley generally north of Dandini Boulevard, south of 7th Avenue and west of a boundary extending along Leon Drive to Wall Canyon Drive to Lupin Drive to Klondike Drive) to fill a term beginning on July 1, 2021, and ending on June 30, 2025, or until such time as Mr. Thomas no longer serves on the Board of Adjustment or a successor is appointed, whichever occurs first. Community Services. (Commission District 3.)

- 21-0335** **8A2** Recommendation to approve, pursuant to NRS 278B.150(2)(b) and on the recommendation of the Chair, the reappointment of Ken Krater to the Washoe County Planning Commission when the Commission convenes as the Capital Improvement Advisory Committee (CIAC) to fill a full term beginning on July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2025, or until such time as Mr. Krater no longer serves on the Planning Commission as a member of the CIAC or a successor is appointed, whichever occurs first. Community Services. (All Commission Districts.)
- 21-0336** **8A3** Recommendation to approve an Employee Residence Agreement between Washoe County and Eduardo Ruiz-Aguilar (Community Services Department, Operations Division employee) to allow occupancy within the County owned residence located at 1595 North Sierra Street, Reno, commencing May 11, 2021. Community Services. (Commission District 3.)
- 21-0337** **8A4** Recommendation to approve a Lease Agreement between Washoe County and the Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows to provide year-round youth services at the Joe Mitchell Community Center located in Lemmon Valley for an initial term five years, commencing on June 1, 2021 through May 31, 2026, with an option to renew for an additional five-year term [valued at \$12,500 annually]. Community Services. (Commission District 5.)
- 21-0338** **8A5** Recommendation to authorize, as an invited signatory, the Memorandum of Agreement among the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, the US Environmental Protection Agency (Region 9), the Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer and Washoe County, (UT #2019-5827), for the Pleasant Valley Interceptor Reach 3 Project located within the South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility service territory, a project necessary to respond to sanitary sewer demands from new area development. Agreement obligates the County to provide a historic preservation and treatment plan, an ethnographic study and archeological monitoring during construction. Community Services. (Commission District 2.)
- 21-0339** **8B1** Recommendation to acknowledge receipt of the Interim Financial Report for Washoe County Governmental Funds for the Nine Months Ended March 31, 2021 - Unaudited. Comptroller. (All Commission Districts.)
- 21-0340** **8B2** Recommendation to acknowledge and accept the notification of final settlement of claim number 2021123 involving Washoe County and Joseph Eberle for a net amount of [\$17,005.47], for car rental fees, storage fees and vehicle replacement. Comptroller. (All Commission Districts.)
- 21-0341** **8B3** Discussion and possible approval of a settlement of claim number

2021034 involving Washoe County and Renown Health for an amount of [\$55,687], for damages sustained at the Renown Health, McCabe Drive location. Comptroller. (All Commission Districts.)

- 21-0342** **8C1** Recommendation to approve, in accordance with Chapter 474 of the Special Acts of Nevada Revised Statutes and on the recommendation of the Chair, the appointment of Adam Kramer, for a four-year term to the Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority representing Washoe County, beginning on July 1, 2021 and ending on June 30, 2025. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)
- 21-0343** **8C2** Recommendation to authorize Human Resources to create 1.0 Full Time Employee (FTE) Human Services Program Specialist position, effective May 17, 2021, as evaluated and approved by the Washoe County job evaluation process; this position is being proposed in support of addressing regional homelessness and the transition of homeless services to Washoe County. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)
- 21-0344** **8C3** Recommendation to approve community support grant awards for FY 20-21 for Silver State Fair Housing Council (SSFHC) in the amount of \$10,000; and for the Gerlach General Improvement District in the amount of \$12,000 for the historic water tower; approve Resolutions necessary for same; and direct Comptroller's Office to make the appropriate budget appropriation transfers. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)
- 21-0345** **8C4** Recommendation to approve an emergency Agreement for Professional Services between Washoe County and the Karma Box Project to provide contracted staffing to operate the temporary Safe Camp [\$102,780.84 for professional services initial three month term, and tail coverage, of an amount not to exceed \$100,000, required to supplement policy coverage, and \$34,260.28 per month for subsequent months]; authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the agreement. Item supports the development of a safe camping location to improve water quality along the Truckee River and expand capacity for those experiencing homelessness. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)
- 21-0346** **8C5** Recommendation to accept a report of a contract let under the emergency provisions of Nevada Revised Statutes 338.011 from Dave Solaro, Assistant County Manager and Incident Commander for the regional incident management team. In accordance with the ongoing emergency declaration for the COVID-19 response in Washoe County the Incident Commander has approved a contract for paving and striping of the former Nevada National Guard Armory site for the COVID testing and point of dispersion relocation project to Sierra Nevada Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$888,007.00. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

21-0347 **8C6** Recommendation to approve a two-year Interlocal Contract between Washoe County and the State of Nevada acting by and through the Nevada Division of Forestry Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in the amount of [\$42,139.00] per fiscal year, not to exceed [\$84,278.00] for the purpose of resources, equipment and financial assistance in the mitigation of emergency fire incidents. Manager's Office. (Commission District 5.)

21-0348 **8D** Recommendation to increase the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Records Division, change fund from nine hundred fifty dollars (\$950.00) to one thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$1,250.00), to enable Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Records Division, to add additional permit stations to accept cash payments. This is necessary due to the increase in concealed carry weapons (CCW) permits and to comply with NRS time frame requirements, and if approved, authorize the Chairman to execute Resolution for same. Treasurer. (All Commission Districts.)

Chair Lucey reiterated Commissioner Hill's desire to pull Agenda Item 8C4 from the Consent Agenda, and Vice Chair Hartung asked that Assistant County Manager Dave Solaro be available to answer questions about Agenda Item 8C5. A discussion then ensued where it was determined these items would remain on the Consent Agenda, but questions would be asked and statements made before a vote was taken.

Commissioner Hill commended County Manager Eric Brown for finding ways to cut one-third of the costs on the safe camp project, saying she wanted to ensure the project was being scaled up in a responsible way. She inquired about the measurements staff would use to gauge the success of the safe camp program. Mr. Brown said eight metrics were included in the Karma Box agreement, including the number of intakes and exits, the number of guests successfully transferred into stable housing, and the number of hours of wraparound services they provided. He explained the project was a pilot program to verify the viability of the safe camp concept as opposed to shelters. Commissioner Hill asked about the timing of the request for quotation, to which Mr. Brown responded it would happen in late July or early August if the project was determined to be viable. The Commissioner said she was excited for the program to get started.

Regarding Agenda Item 8C5, Vice Chair Hartung asked how long the bid had been out. Mr. Solaro said the bid was out for the required period of 21 business days. He confirmed they only received one sealed bid. Commissioner Herman asked whether another site was needed at that price given that COVID-19 was ending. Mr. Solaro responded they experienced issues in February and March when they did not have enough vaccine for the demand; staff was still vaccinating hundreds of people each day at the pod site. He said a vaccination site was still needed, and the current space would impact the County's ability to host events. The proposed site was the least expensive of the five they considered.

Mr. Brown noted this was likely not the last pandemic this region would

face, and putting this infrastructure in place would prevent the County from needing to build it later. Chair Lucey added most of the expenses were paid for by Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funds or money allocated through the American Rescue Plan Act. Vice Chair Hartung opined this site would be used in the future to administer booster shots and could possibly be used for other vaccinations.

Chair Lucey reviewed some of the board and commission appointments included in the Consent Agenda.

There was no response to the call for public comment on the Consent Agenda items listed above.

On motion by Vice Chair Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Hill, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 8A1 through 8D be approved. Any and all Resolutions or Interlocal Agreements pertinent to Consent Agenda Items 8A1 through 8D are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

11:47 a.m. **Commissioner Jung left the meeting.**

BLOCK VOTE – 11 & 12

21-0349 **AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommendation to approve an Agreement for Professional Consulting Services between Washoe County and Kautz Environmental Consultants, Inc. to provide pre-construction cultural resource mitigation activities for Reach 3 of the Pleasant Valley Sewer Interceptor Project within the South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility service area [in the amount \$391,681], which is a condition of implementation of the Historic Properties Treatment Plan for the Pleasant Valley Interceptor Reach 3 Project. Community Services. (Commission District 2.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Hill, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 11 be approved.

21-0350 **AGENDA ITEM 12** Recommendation to approve the submission of the Safe Camp Pilot Project grant application in the amount of [\$244,062, no county match] to the State of Nevada Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus round two funding to be used specifically for the prevention of, preparation for, and response to the Coronavirus, and if approved authorize the County Manager to execute the document concerning same. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Hill, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 12 be approved and authorized.

21-0351 **AGENDA ITEM 9** Recommendation to acknowledge status report and possible direction to staff on the County Manager’s recommended Fiscal Year 2022 Budget; and direct the County Manager to return to the Board of County Commission with a Tentative and Final Budget incorporating the approved County Manager’s recommendations for adoption at a public hearing to be scheduled on May 18, 2021. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

Assistant County Manager Christine Vuletich conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Budget Timeline; Economic Outlook Spring 2020; Economic Outlook Spring 2021; Fiscal Year 2022 County Manager Recommended Budget; Recommended Budget (All Funds); Fiscal Year 2022...; Recommended Budget by Function; Recommended Budget by Fund Type; General Fund; and General Fund FY 2022 Recommended Budget (2 slides).

11:52 a.m. **Commissioner Jung returned.**

Ms. Vuletich noted the tentative budget was required to be filed by April 15. She acknowledged the challenge of creating a budget the prior year during the early days of the pandemic. The County experienced a few months of sharp economic downturn because of the lockdown, but it was not as dire as anticipated. She noted the interim guidelines for American Rescue Plan Act funds were 150 pages and staff was reviewing them. The County registered through the portal to receive the funds, so she anticipated receiving 50 percent of them soon with the other portion arriving one year later. She explained the low unemployment rate in northern Nevada was due to its diverse economy.

Ms. Vuletich stated the Homelessness Fund was started to help account for and create budgets for all programs which supported homeless services. Federal funding would help defray the cost of the ongoing pandemic response and recovery. She reminded the Board that the \$3 million in Stabilization Reserve funds were utilized in 2017 to address flooding, and staff recommended replenishing that along with the \$3 million in the Risk Management Fund. No capital projects were funded from the General Fund, which she said could not continue, citing facility and roof replacement projects specifically. She said the Contingency Fund had been drawn down to its minimum and staff recommended restoring that as well. She pointed out general government appropriations were higher than normal because they were budgeted to include funds to make property tax refund payments.

Because revenues were higher than expected and on account of the cost-saving measures taken by the County, Ms. Vuletich went on, \$21.5 million was expected to be added to the General Fund balance; some of those funds would be used to restore the reserve budgets she mentioned earlier. She commented the 20.8 percent increase in overall fund use was due to the property tax refunds, a one-time expense which would happen over

the following two years. She said they wanted to ensure enough was budgeted for this because it was difficult to predict how many claimants there might be. She stressed the importance of maintaining a certain number of days' operating cash because revenues were not received in equal amounts and the County needed enough cash to pay bills in months where no property taxes were received.

Budget Manager Lori Cooke continued the presentation by reviewing slides with the following titles: Sources; General Fund Major Revenues; Uses; New Positions; Reclassifications; Transfers Out; Highlighted Other Funds; Homelessness Fund (New); and New Positions and Reclassifications.

Ms. Cooke stated that, since 84 percent of revenues came from property taxes and consolidated taxes (C-tax), any negative impact in receipt of those taxes would materially impact resources within the General Fund. She explained the County Assessor and County Treasurer completed and submitted their segregation reports and other requirements to the State, who followed processes with that data to produce an estimate. Within the last 10 years, that estimate had been within 1 percent of the budget. She noted the projections of how much they anticipated receiving in taxes for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 were based on several different sources of information about possible recovery scenarios. She pointed out C-tax had had less of a flat increase because it was consumer driven.

Ms. Cooke remarked the budget item on the following week's agenda would go into specifics about the new positions listed on slide 16. Most of the job reclassifications went through the Job Evaluation Committee, some of which involved a simple title change while others required a change in pay. She indicated the recent changes made to the transfers out would also be discussed at the following week's meeting. She pointed out the debt service amount was lower because many of the bonds had been refunded at lower interest rates.

Commissioner Jung asked why the County was transferring nearly \$1 million in additional indigent funding to local hospital partners. Ms. Cooke replied this transfer went into the Indigent Services Fund, which funded more than just hospitals; Nevada Revised Statutes required increasing that appropriation by 4.5 percent each year. That funding also supported a veteran's program, and \$21 million was being transferred to the Homelessness Fund. She was not able to estimate how much of the \$21 million would go to local hospitals. Commissioner Jung felt the County helped keep hospitals in business even though it was not often treated like a partner. She felt the County did not do a good job communicating this partnership to the cities because the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) picked up that fiduciary responsibility regardless of where patients were from. She requested a five-year historical breakdown of how much the County paid per patient.

Ms. Cooke noted staff evaluated the indigent budget and, in addition to the transfer, there had been a \$.06 tax levy with nearly all those proceeds going back to the State for assessments. She concluded the presentation by reviewing slides with the following titles: Capital Improvements; Capital Improvement Fund; Parks, Utilities,

Roads...; Recommended Budget; and Questions/Discussion.

Ms. Cooke remarked the large portion of the Capital Improvement Budget dedicated for the Capital Improvements Fund, or 31 percent, was possible because of the reinstatement of the General Fund transfer. She noted American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act funds were not included as a source of funds in the Capital Improvement Fund slide. When those funds were received, she said, staff would come to the BCC for approval to amend the budget. Those ARP Act monies could be used to fund waitlisted capital improvement projects, some of which had been deferred over the prior two years. She commented failure to meet the State's deadline could result in the State forcing the County to use the FY 2021 budget for FY 2022.

County Manager Eric Brown thanked Ms. Vuletich and Ms. Cooke for the presentation, mentioning his gratitude to department heads and staff for helping make the increases to the budget in a pandemic year possible. He said the weekly review committee meetings, although cumbersome, resulted in the ability to sustain policy mandates with only adjustments made for the timing of expenditures. He expressed pride at the outcome. Commissioner Herman added her thanks to Mr. Brown for his guidance, without which she thought the County would not be where it was.

Chair Lucey inquired about the nature of the expenditures from the Parks Capital Fund. Ms. Cooke believed they were used for upkeep of the parks system, mainly in the form of bringing facilities up to code or revamping them.

Chair Lucey praised Mr. Brown for taking policy direction to carry forth a robust, detailed budget. While acknowledging the large amount needed to satisfy the Incline Village settlements, he expressed a desire to see the Parks budget increased. He noted how the County subsidized million-dollar companies when it came to indigent services, but the Parks Department had no revenue. He listed some of the County Park assets, saying he sought to work on them as much as the City of Reno had worked on Idlewild Park. Mr. Brown responded staff could research whether ARP Act funds could be used for that. Ms. Cooke pointed out the Parks' budget contained reinstatements for trail maintenance and noxious weed programs.

Commissioner Hill agreed improving the parks was a key to improving people's lifestyles. She was excited about this budget which would expand the libraries in every district, saying the County was showing how much they cared about that service as well as homeless services.

Vice Chair Hartung noticed there were no expenditures for District 24. Commissioner Jung believed new discussions should take place now that there were new Commissioners, a new Manager, and a new fiscal philosophy. She felt there should be fairness between the districts and requested that staff provide a list of the last five years' worth of investments in each district. She recognized there would be inequity based on acts of nature, but she wanted to work with the Vice Chair and staff on this issue.

Vice Chair Hartung opined dog parks and pickleball courts could be used in every district. Chair Lucey stated the BCC's job was to create policy, and he opined \$6.5 million was inadequate to fund a parks department for a county of this size. He felt discussion was needed by the Board about its priorities, and part of having a safe and secure community involved ensuring people enjoyed being outside.

There was no response to the call for public comment, though County Clerk Jan Galassini noted she received an email from Ms. Helene Larson, which she would place on the record.

On motion by Vice Chair Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 9 be acknowledged and directed.

21-0352 **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation and possible action to approve an amendment to the Washoe County COVID-19 Local Mitigation and Enforcement Plan ("the Plan") to allow adult entertainment establishments, nightclubs, and dayclubs, as outlined in section 27 of Directive 021, to be opened prior to the current date of June 1, 2021 as included in the original Plan, and direction to staff to submit the amended Plan for information to the COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force ("Task Force") as required by the Governor's Declaration of Emergency, Directive 044 ("the Directive"). Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

Chair Lucey mentioned he asked for this item to address the needs of nightclubs and adult entertainment, even though many of those businesses were within city limits. He believed they were no different than bars, which the County had allowed to operate throughout the month of May.

Assistant County Manager Dave Solaro noted the only proposed change fell on the last page of the mitigation portion of the plan; the current plan would not allow those businesses to open until June 1. Draft language was given to the Commissioners, though the District Health Officer suggested adding language that said those business would be "allowed to open May 11th, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. following all applicable local authority, social distancing, hygiene, and performance rules established within the State directives and guidance".

Chair Lucey commented the County did not need to have the endorsements of other local authorities pursuant to Directive 044, but they requested them anyway. Mr. Solaro responded they received an email from the Washoe County School District endorsing the change, though they noted they had no stake in the change; staff was waiting to hear from the other entities.

Vice Chair Hartung pointed out reopening involved coordinating labor and the supply chain of goods, which could take time. He felt this needed to be done as soon as possible and thought it was a wise choice to consider it now.

Commissioner Jung apologized to the Vice Chair for dismissing his request about this the prior week, saying she supported it. She thought it was subjective to sometimes mirror Clark County in their actions while other times refusing to follow along with something because they did it. In this case, she felt it would have been appropriate to follow them since Washoe County was the second largest county behind Clark County. She though approving this would allow the owners of those Washoe County establishments to have a couple of weeks to deal with the supply chain. Many larger establishments and smaller ones took direction from the Nevada Resort Association, whose job it was to keep businesses running and out of liability. She wanted to ensure that northern Nevada was not left behind, and she expressed support for the item.

Chair Lucey read some of the proposed language and asked about the restrictions. Mr. Solaro said the draft language was included in the document package, and reopening would be allowed on May 11 with all applicable rules. The Chair indicated Clark County recommended the same language, though occupancy limits and social distancing protocols would be different.

On the call for public comment, Mr. Kenji Otto felt it was great that all businesses were opening up. He requested that the Board consider amending the plan so group sizes only included adults, not children. He encouraged the Board to consider the resolution suggested by Commissioner Herman because Washoe County had its own way of doing things. He did not want to see Washoe County turn into Clark County.

On motion by Chair Lucey, seconded by Vice Chair Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that the Local Mitigation and Enforcement Plan be amended to permit topless activity to return, with entertainers maintaining required social distancing, effective May 11, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. Entertainers must have taken the first COVID-19 vaccine within the past 14 days and then complete the second dose if applicable within six weeks of the first dose; or they must take a weekly PCR test and receive a negative result to resume work within the establishment. This was in accordance with the April 8, 2021 guidance of the Medical Advisory Team for karaoke to follow State rules.

21-0353 **AGENDA ITEM 13** Discussion and direction to staff regarding legislation or legislative issues proposed by legislators, by Washoe County, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, or by other entities permitted by the Nevada State Legislature to submit bill draft requests, or such legislative issues as may be deemed by the Chair or the Board to be of critical significance to Washoe County. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

County Manager Eric Brown remarked there was a recommendation to support State Bill (SB) 297, which offered abatements for owners of community gardens. He said the China Springs budget was approved at a much higher level than anticipated, which would facilitate the continuation of services; he acknowledged work needed to be done to improve or refine service. Lastly, Assembly Bill (AB) 424, which would accelerate

how quickly inmates were processed, was becoming problematic and he thought the financial impact could be significant.

Commissioner Hill added AB33 passed out of the Senate Judiciary without amendments. She confirmed the recommendations were to support SB297 and oppose AB424. Chair Lucey praised Commissioner Hill for her work. He recognized AB424 would present challenges for the court system since it was not a 24-hour system.

Commissioner Jung moved to support SB297, a motion she withdrew when Vice Chair Hartung requested additional discussion. The Vice Chair expressed his support for AB297, saying local permitting for businesses like Soulful Seeds had been a stumbling block. He noted Soulful Seeds was originally required to have a fire hydrant, which he felt was unnecessary. He described community gardens as wonderful assets and he was hopeful local restrictions could be loosened.

Commissioner Jung felt a culture change was needed because the County often hired people who denied projects instead of trying to find solutions. She asked the Manager to find creative ways to solve problems, including having staff offer at least three solutions to each problem. She expressed frustration that a three-person organization had been asked to install a \$15,000 fence, while she recognized the importance of having regulators to keep things safe. She encouraged staff to return to the Board after passage of the bill with areas of concern instead of having volunteers let the Board know about them. This culture change could involve hiring different people who did not always say no to things and worked creatively. She wanted staff to explain how things could be done instead of outright rejecting them.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Hill, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that the Board of County Commissioners support Senate Bill 297 and oppose Assembly Bill 424.

Assistant District Attorney Dave Watts-Vial pointed out AB424 was not listed on the bills of interest, noting the Board could change its vote. Chair Lucey indicated the vote would stand.

21-0354 **AGENDA ITEM 14** Public Hearing and possible action to hold the first reading of an ordinance: (1) amending Ordinance No. 1000 in order to change the boundaries of District No. 24 (Groundwater Remediation); (2) providing for a notice of a public hearing and other matters relating thereto; and (3) setting the public hearing for the second reading and possible adoption on June 8, 2021; AND, Hold the first reading of an ordinance: (1) imposing a fee on the parcels of land in Washoe County, Nevada District No. 24 (Groundwater Remediation) to pay the costs of developing and carrying out a plan for remediation; (2) providing for a notice of a public hearing and other matters relating thereto; and (3) setting the public hearing

for the second reading and possible adoption on June 8, 2021. Community Services. (All Commission Districts.)

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

County Clerk Jan Galassini read the titles for Bill Nos. 1857 and 1858.

Bill Nos. 1857 and 1858 were introduced by Vice Chair Hartung, and legal notice for final action of adoption was directed.

21-0355 **AGENDA ITEM 15** Public Hearing: Second reading and possible adoption of an Ordinance pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes 278.0201 through 278.0207 adopting a Development Agreement between Washoe County and Moonlight Hills Estates LLC, regarding tentative subdivision map case number WTM16-002 (Golden Mesa North), a subdivision of two parcels totaling 119.76 acres into a 115 lot subdivision which was approved on March 7, 2017. This agreement extends the deadline for filing the first in a series of final subdivision maps from March 7, 2021 to March 7, 2023. The subject site is located north of Golden Valley Road and east of Estates Drive. The parcels are located within the North Valleys Area Plan, the North Valleys Citizen Advisory Board and Washoe County Commission District No. 5 (APNs: 552-092-22 & 552-050-01). Community Services. (Commission District 5.)

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

County Clerk Jan Galassini read the title for Ordinance No. 1668, Bill No. 1856.

On motion by Vice Chair Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Hill, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Ordinance No. 1668, Bill No. 1856, be adopted, approved, and published in accordance with NRS 244.100.

21-0356 **AGENDA ITEM 16** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

21-0357 **AGENDA ITEM 17** Announcements/Reports.

There were no announcements or reports.

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1:04 p.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

BOB LUCEY, Chair
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

JANIS GALASSINI, County Clerk and
Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

*Minutes Prepared by:
Derek Sonderfan, Deputy County Clerk*