

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

JUNE 29, 2021

PRESENT:

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

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

ABSENT:

Jeanne Herman, Commissioner

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:00 a.m. in special 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:

21-0526 AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.

Ms. Susie Howell asked why students were still required to wear masks, alleging they could not transmit the disease. She expressed concern about vaccine passports and said she wanted the emergency declaration to be removed. She spoke about the stresses being experienced by children because of masks.

Ms. Cindy Martinez displayed images in Chambers, copies of which were placed on the record. She requested a resolution declaring an end to the public health emergency and another banning vaccine passports. She noted the Reno Justice Court still required people to wear masks. She felt citizens were in danger of being subjected to further restrictions due to the Delta variant of COVID-19 (C19). She discussed a prophylaxis protocol which demonstrated that a strengthened immune system was the best prevention for C19. She expressed frustration that information was being hidden by tech companies and governments.

Ms. Janet Butcher indicated she submitted emails to the Commissioners but had not received a response from them. She appreciated the Board's passion for the prescription opioid crisis but wondered why the Board did not share a similar concern for drugs coming over the border. She spoke about street drugs, human trafficking, and the spread of C19, which she attributed to the current administration's open border policy. She wanted the Board to push back against the influx of drugs.

County Clerk Jan Galassini noted an email from Ms. Elise Weatherly would be placed on the record.

21-0527 **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

Vice Chair Hartung commented he attended Barks and Badges, which he described as a successful event that exceeded expectations. He requested a presentation with more information about the program and remarked the dogs were financed solely through fundraising.

Commissioner Hill promoted Artown, noting it would begin on Thursday and last the entire month. Many of the events were free and the County was a sponsor of the overall event. She thought it was a great opportunity for the community to come together. She also promoted a cleanup event at the Corporation Yard in Incline Village on July 5 to address the possible aftermath of any 4th of July festivities.

21-0528 **AGENDA ITEM 5** Recommendation to authorize the Comptroller's Office to place Excess Liability Insurance Policy with Safety National Casualty Corporation and Safety Specialty Insurance Company for an estimated annual cost of [\$310,144] effective July 1, 2021 and authorize the Comptroller's Office to sign the applications and agreements necessary to bind coverage, with funding from the Risk Management Fund. Comptroller. (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 Herman absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 5 be authorized.

21-0529 **AGENDA ITEM 6** Recommendation to authorize the Comptroller's Office to renew the Excess Workers' Compensation Insurance Policy with Safety National for a one-year term with an annual premium of [\$299,446] and Property, Boiler & Machinery, Cyber Liability and Pollution Liability with the Public Entity Property Insurance Program (PEPIP) for a one-year term with an annual cost of [\$996,860], effective July 1, 2021 and authorize the Comptroller's Office to sign the applications and agreements necessary to bind coverage, funding from the Risk Management Fund source. Comptroller. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Vice Chair Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Herman absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 6 be authorized.

21-0530 **AGENDA ITEM 7** For possible action to approve and execute a Resolution levying tax rates for all local government entities located in Washoe County for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, as certified by the Nevada Tax Commission, by designating the number of cents of each \$100 of property levied as required by NRS 361.460 as described in the Resolution. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

On the call for public comment, Ms. Cindy Martinez said it was the responsibility of those in government service to set an example of exemplary behavior. She displayed documents in Chambers, copies of which were placed on file with the Clerk. She spoke about Commissioner Jung holding an investment property but classifying it as a low-cap qualified primary residence. Chair Lucey stated Ms. Martinez's comments had nothing to do with the Tax Commission's ability to levy tax rates. Ms. Martinez insisted it did, claiming rental properties should be designated as high-cap. She wondered whether excess income was not being reported on financial disclosures.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Hill, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Herman absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7 be approved and executed. The Resolution for same is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

21-0531 **AGENDA ITEM 8** Public Comment.

Ms. Cindy Martinez expressed consternation that only two votes were taken for all consent agenda and block items at the previous meeting; these items encompassed millions of dollars in expenditures. She said these were not put forward for discussion, which she claimed allowed the Board to hide where taxpayer money was being spent.

Ms. Erin Massengale requested that a resolution to ban vaccine passports be placed on an agenda, saying the right to bodily integrity was a human right. She thought vaccine passports were inherently discriminatory.

County Clerk Jan Galassini reported she received an email from Ms. Elise Weatherly, which she would place on file.

21-0532 **AGENDA ITEM 9** Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Jung announced she would attend a behavioral health roundtable discussion with Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto on July 1, which would focus on what could be done with federal tax dollars to implement behavior modification treatments instead of relying on incarceration or removal from housing. She pointed out there was only one mental health hospital in the entire state of Nevada.

In response to an earlier public comment, Chair Lucey stated items in the consent agendas or block votes were always available for public comment; further, items

could be pulled from the block vote for discussion if needed. He encouraged people to utilize public comment times to speak on those items.

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10:22 a.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*