

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

JANUARY 18, 2022

PRESENT:

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

Janis Galassini, County Clerk
Eric Brown, County Manager
Mary Kandaras, Chief Deputy District Attorney

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, County Clerk Jan Galassini called roll and the Board conducted the following business:

22-0044 AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.

County Clerk Jan Galassini stated emails received from Ms. Susan Howell and Mr. Bruce Foster would be placed on file.

Ms. Janet Butcher mentioned she had attended the regents meeting and was surprised to learn that two professors did not know the injections were not FDA approved as a vaccine. She asked that the metal detector outside of chambers be removed and wondered why the machine was only set up for the Board of County Commissioners meetings. She noted her surprise that the outbreak had started earlier than her prediction. She said the County needed to step up and stop the nonsense.

Ms. Erin Massengale requested a resolution to ban vaccine passports for employees and for patrons entering businesses. She noted vaccine passports were unacceptable and would not have been allowed under any other circumstance. She thanked the Board for ending the public health emergency but thought masks should not be required if there was no emergency.

22-0045 AGENDA ITEM 4 Announcements/Reports.

Manager Eric Brown informed the program for free covid tests had begun; each household could receive four free covid tests by going to www.covidtests.gov. He said the website indicated tests would ship in 7 to 12 days.

Chair Hartung requested the Board draft and vote on a letter regarding the advanced signal warning systems on Pyramid Highway.

22-0046 **AGENDA ITEM 5** Presentation by HR of certificates honoring the following Washoe County employees who have completed essential employee development courses and employees who have completed the Management Development Pilot Program- -Human Resources Certificates will be sent to the employees.

Excellence in Public Service Certificate Programs

Biridiana Chaidez, Office Assistant II, Health, Essentials of Personal Effectiveness

Salina Eastwood, Sheriff Support Specialist Supervisor, WCSO, Essentials of Management Development

Nicole Hansen, Animal Services Dispatcher, Animal Services, Essentials of Management Development

Kristie Harmon, Senior Benefits Specialist, Human Resources, Essentials of Management Development

Cristina Hernandez, Pretrial Services Officer III, District Court, Essentials of Management Development

Virginia McDonald, Office Assistant II, Health, Essentials of Personal Effectiveness

Victoria Nicolson-Hornblower, Public Health Nurse Supervisor, Health, Essentials of Management Development

Samantha Pfisterer, Court Clerk, Reno Justice Court, Essentials of High Performing Teams

Tamara Pierce, Family Support Supervisor, District Attorney, Essentials of Management Development

Janet Prestipino, Legal Secretary Supervisor, District Attorney, Essentials of Management Development

Zulma Reyes, Legal Secretary, Public Defender, Essentials of Management Development

Joseph Saiz, Division Director, Juvenile Services, Essentials of Management Development

Brandon Smith, Unit Manager, District Court, Essentials of SAP for Financial Staff

Management Development Pilot Program

John Arrascada, Public Defender, Public Defender's Office

Katherine Callahan, Assistant Medical Examiner, Medical Examiner's Office

Julie Dial, Administrative Supervisor, WCSO

Margaret Ford, Legal Secretary Supervisor, District Attorney's Office

Carinne Glines, Administrative Assistant II, Public Defender's Office

Jessica Goicoechea-Parise, Mental Health Counselor Supervisor, Human Services Agency

Reginald Greer, Chief Deputy Recorder, Recorder's Office
Jessica Gutierrez, Human Resources Analyst II, Human Resources
Elizabeth Jourdin, Organizational Effectiveness Manager, Human Resources
Joshua Kautz, Alternative Sentencing Sergeant, Alternative Sentencing
David Kelly, Environmental Health Specialists Supervisor, Health District
Ariel Lester, Permit Services Coordinator, Community Services Department
Heidi Mittelstaedt-Nelson, Animal Services Field Supervisor, Animal Services
Mark Stewart, Purchasing and Contracts Manager, Finance
Francisco Vega, Division Director Air Quality Management, Health District
James Wood, Technology Project Coordinator, Technology Services

Chair Hartung congratulated employees on their achievements and expressed his gratitude for the time employees put in to better themselves and the County.

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

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – 6A1 THROUGH 6C1

- 22-0047** **6A1** Acknowledge the communications and reports received by the Clerk on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, including the following categories: Communications; Monthly Statements/Reports; and Annual Statements/Reports. Clerk. (All Commission Districts.)
- 22-0048** **6B1** Recommendation to approve, pursuant to NRS 244.1505, Commission District Special Fund disbursement in the amount of [\$1,000] for Fiscal Year 2021-2022; District 1 Commissioner Alexis Hill recommends a [\$1,000] grant to the Office of the Washoe County Recorder -- a government entity -- to offset recording fees for the recording of a Declaration of Removal of Discriminatory Restriction for 23 homeowners with the purpose of disavowing racist language contained in property records; approve Resolution necessary for same; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make necessary net zero cross fund and/or cross function budget appropriation transfers. Manager's Office. (Commission District 1.)
- 22-0049** **6C1** Recommendation to: (1) acknowledge various items donated totaling an estimated market value of [\$20,250.00]; and (2) accept donations from various donors to Washoe County Human Services Agency Child Protective Services Fund to support welfare activities in the amount of [\$20,295.00] retroactive for the period October 16, 2021 through December 25, 2021; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)

Chair Hartung noted Agenda Item 6B1 and thanked Vice Chair Hill for her donation.

Commissioner Hill informed she would be working with the Recorder's office to improve the process. She was researching whether a change to the procedure could be made during the legislative session. She said the discriminatory language was a problem in older neighborhoods and noted Recorder Kalie Work's dedication to the project. She hoped citizens would take advantage of removing discriminatory language without having to pay fees.

Chair Hartung asked Chief Deputy District Attorney Mary Kandaras if the Recorder's office fees could be waived for citizens who wanted the language struck from their deeds.

Attorney Kandaras responded the fees were statutory and affirmed Vice Chair Hill's solution was appropriate.

Regarding Agenda Item 6C1, Chair Hartung expressed his gratitude to the various donors.

Commissioner Jung expressed her support for Vice Chair Hill's initiative and requested a future agenda item for her discretionary funds in the amount of \$1,000 to assist homeowners. She believed Vice Chair Hill and Recorder Work would be successful in their pursuit to change the statute.

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

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Vice Chair Hill, which motion duly carried on a 3-0 vote with Commissioners Lucey and Herman absent, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 6A1 through 6C1 be approved. Any and all Resolutions or Interlocal Agreements pertinent to Consent Agenda Items 6A1 through 6C1 are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

22-0050 **AGENDA ITEM 7** Public Comment.

Ms. Janet Butcher said she was informed there were issues with people signing up to be poll workers at the Registrar of Voter's office. She relayed a story about her daughter, an immunocompromised transplant patient, who had to take a leave of absence from her job because she got sick after getting the vaccine. She thought the vaccine and masks should be a choice. She opined the tests were not accurate and common sense should be used.

Ms. Erin Massengale commented testing did not differentiate between the regular flu and Covid-19. She thought testing was a waste of taxpayer funds and asked the Board to end discussions regarding testing. She said she would like to make being sick a

normal thing again.

22-0051 AGENDA ITEM 8 Announcements/Reports.

Chair Hartung requested a presentation from the Registrar of Voters regarding recruitment for the polling locations, voting laws, and the County's purview regarding elections.

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10:22 a.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

VAUGHN HARTUNG, Chair
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

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

*Minutes Prepared by:
Evonne Strickland, Deputy County Clerk*