

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

APRIL 19, 2022

PRESENT:

**Vaughn Hartung, Chair**

**Alexis Hill, Vice Chair**

**Bob Lucey, Commissioner**

**Kitty Jung, Commissioner**

**Jeanne Herman, Commissioner**

**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:

**22-0273      AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.**

Mr. Mark Neumann disclosed that he was a member of the Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) and was running for the Sun Valley General Improvement District (GID) Board. He shared that he went to the Washoe County Senior Services Advisory Board at the beginning of the month and was told that the Sun Valley Community Center had computers that were never hooked up and were unusable. He requested the Board investigate.

Ms. Elise Weatherly stated she had reached out to an attorney and was informed that what the Highland Ranch Homeowners Association (HOA) was doing was against State law. She expressed frustration with the HOA, noting she wanted to move out of the community but was having difficulty finding an attorney to represent her in a lawsuit.

Ms. Tracey Hilton-Thomas referenced Romans 3:23 from the Bible. She voiced concern about the safety and well-being of election workers and opined the Board had done nothing regarding this issue. She believed electronic ballots were a waste of money and the long lines at polling locations were harmful to the safety of election workers. She requested the Board implement the centralized voting center provided under Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 293.2955. She thought the Reno-Sparks Convention Center (RSCVA) would provide security and efficiency and reduce costs, and she urged the Board to consider this for the upcoming election.

Mr. Zach Young shared that he was an Assistant District Attorney for Washoe County. He stated he was in attendance to provide comment on Agenda Item 9 as it pertained to the recommended funding of the District Attorney's (DA) Office budget, which he believed was insufficient to advance public safety.

Ms. Judy Haire referred to a document titled "Washoe County Provisional Voting Anomalies." She said that according to the document, the Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS) report to the Nevada Secretary of State (SOS) indicated there were over 4,000 same-day registrants during the 2020 election. She said under the NRS this required provisional ballots to be cast and final verification to be conducted by the SOS. She referenced a public records request from March 28, 2022, which asked for all written procedures of how data from the Dominion voting machines were entered into the County database and all reports of provisional votes cast using these machines that went to the SOS. She wondered if any provisional votes were cast by paper ballot, and if so, how many and on which days. She expressed frustration with the response she received from the Registrar of Voters (ROV) Office that there were no written procedures, and she did not believe the ROV adequately answered the request.

Ms. Debbie Hudgens noted she would continue the comments regarding the "Washoe County Voting Anomalies." She wondered how the data from the Dominion voting machines were entered into the County database. She said the response to the public records request indicated there was a code attached to the precinct number in the voting system to identify a provisional ballot. She believed the EAVS report stated there were provisional ballots cast during the 2020 election, but the April 2021 Voter Registration Database indicated there were none. She opined over 4,000 ballots should have been marked as provisional. She wondered about the provisional ballots being kept separate from regular ballots and thought the Dominion voting machines should have a report to show this was done. She referenced Assembly Bill (AB) 345 from the 2019 Legislative Session. She said the public records request had asked for a report from the SOS regarding provisional ballots as potential double votes for the 2020 election, noting such a report was not received.

Mr. Nicholas St. Jon shared that he would continue the comments regarding the "Washoe County Voting Anomalies." He displayed a document, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. He reiterated that no report had been received from the SOS regarding provisional ballots as potential double votes for the 2020 election. He opined that without the report none of the provisional ballots should have been counted, and they accounted for 1.65 percent of all votes cast in Washoe County. He believed there were other discrepancies in the EAVS report. He spoke about the votes counted rates in several counties throughout Nevada. He thought there was corruption in the ROV Office, and an investigation needed to be conducted.

Mr. Donald Fossum displayed a document, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. He spoke about a report regarding election integrity. He shared that there were SOS candidates in about 17 different states who were working together to push for the elimination of voting machines around the country.

Ms. Janet Butcher believed computer code could be manipulated and should be audited. She said the Spanish Springs High School polling location did not have a stamp for mail-in ballots and asked the Board to investigate. She encouraged the Board to consider the use of voter identification. She shared that she had voted in the 2020 primary but was then placed on an inactive voter roll and thought this had happened to many other voters.

**22-0274**      **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

Vice Chair Hill shared that Incline Village had been designated a Nevada Main Street Program and was going through the process of what this would look like, including community redevelopment. She wanted to know if other parts of Washoe County would be interested in going through the designation process and if the County could provide support. She asked to add this item to a future agenda.

Commissioner Herman asked to bring the Highland Village Master Plan reconfiguration back to the Board for consideration. She believed adequate changes had been made for the Board to adopt the proposed amendment. She also asked the Board to consider a potential Bill Draft Request (BDR) for the next legislative session to cap fuel tax increases.

Chair Hartung asked Chief Deputy District Attorney Mary Kandaras about the process for reconsideration of the Highland Village Master Plan amendment. Attorney Kandaras explained the reconsideration needed to be requested by a member of the Board and then placed on a future agenda.

Commissioner Lucey stated he and County Manager Eric Brown met with the Deputy Secretary of State to discuss voting and election issues. He shared that the Secretary of State (SOS) along with the Registrar of Voters (ROV) of each county were asking recipients to send voter registration cards and sample ballots back with “return to sender” if they were addressed to an individual who did not live at that residence. The SOS and the ROVs thought it was the best way to clean up the voter rolls throughout the State and ensure accuracy. Commissioner Lucey noted Washoe County was working diligently with the SOS to get this message out and noted the voter rolls were updated daily by the SOS staff.

Commissioner Lucey shared that Vice Chair Hill had participated in placing pinwheels in honor of National Child Abuse Prevention Month. He noted that the County would participate in placing pinwheels in front of Greater Nevada Field on the morning of Tuesday, April 26. He invited the public to attend.

Chair Hartung voiced concern that the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) had taken down the Advanced Signal Warning Systems (ASWS) on Pyramid Highway. He thought it decreased road safety, and he spoke about a recent traffic accident on Disc Drive. He shared that he wrote a letter to Governor Steve Sisolak about this issue but had yet to receive a response.

Chair Hartung asked Attorney Kandaras if the District Attorney's (DA) Office could provide a memo to the Board regarding the fuel tax. He requested information about the fuel tax process and how it was initiated, noting it was a voter initiative. Attorney Kandaras responded that the DA's Office would draft something. Chair Hartung asked her to coordinate with the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC).

Commissioner Lucey said the ASWS had also been removed on Mt. Rose Highway and the corner of State Route (SR) 431 and Virginia Street by The Summit mall. He did not believe NDOT had given drivers ample notification that the ASWS would be removed. He commented there used to be five of the ASWS on Mt. Rose Highway and there were only two left, one by Thomas Creek and one by Wedge Parkway. He observed the removals were due to national guidance but said he did not see the benefit.

Commissioner Lucey spoke about a property in the Holcomb Ranch area that was the subject of a contentious discussion during the last meeting. He opined that the State might not be able to facilitate improvements for some of its roads and requested that Washoe County work with the RTC to identify funding for the necessary improvements.

Commissioner Lucey shared that he met with Chair Hartung, City of Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve, City of Sparks Mayor Ed Lawson, Washoe County Manager Eric Brown, and the Managers of the Cities of Reno and Sparks to discuss the improvement of fire services throughout the County and the region. He informed that the goal was to ensure all residents had access to quality emergency medical services (EMS), fire services, and public safety. He thanked Chair Hartung for arranging the meeting and noted he would like other agencies to participate in the discussion for future planning. He thought there was more the County could do and hoped it would work with its partners to make the changes that needed to be made.

Chair Hartung agreed with Commissioner Lucey and believed the immediate goal was to implement regional dispatch so the closest unit would respond in case of an emergency. Regarding the removal of the ASWS, he opined that NDOT had already made the decision to remove them before conducting any public outreach and expressed frustration with the process.

Commissioner Herman said she understood there were costs to maintain the ASWS such as calibrating the lights and the cost of the electricity. She requested to know what those costs were and wanted the funds from the sale of the equipment to go towards the improvement of the highways.

### **PROCLAMATIONS**

**22-0275**      **5A1** Proclaim April 2022 as National Donate Life Month.

Chair Hartung read the Proclamation.

Chair Hartung expressed his support and appreciation for organ donation, noting that his wife had donated a kidney to their daughter in 2008. He introduced Ms. Nancy Ponte, Mr. Matt Graves, Ms. Denise Nickel, Mr. David Estorga, Mr. Chris Johns, Mr. Dan Lunn, Ms. Monica Myles, Ms. Kimberly Flores, and Mr. Tom Graham, and thanked them for their hard work.

Mr. Dan Lunn, Vice President of Tissue Operations for Nevada Donor Network (NDN), shared that there were currently over 100,000 Americans waiting for a second chance at life through organ donation and about 600 of them were Nevadans. He hoped that National Donate Life Month would bring awareness to organ, eye, and tissue donation and encourage Nevadans to register as donors. He thanked the Board for its leadership and for bringing the mission of the NDN to the forefront.

Mr. Matt Graves, Vice President of Tissue Operations for Donor Network West (DNW), reiterated that approximately 600 Nevadans were currently waiting for a lifesaving gift. He shared that the DNW was hosting a “Spare a Life” fundraiser in May to support education and outreach for organ, eye, and tissue donation, which would be held at the National Bowling Stadium on Thursday, May 19 at 5:30 p.m. The DNW would also hold a ribbon-cutting event at its new headquarters soon. He said the DNW was working with its Northern Nevada Advisory Council to provide guidance, insights, and strategies on developing new and innovative ways to share the benefits of organ, eye, and tissue donation with the community. He thanked the Board for its support and for helping to raise awareness of this cause.

Ms. Nancy Ponte said she was a donor mom and initially had not even known that her daughter had registered to be an organ donor. She shared that her daughter had an asthma attack and did not survive but was able to gift donations to three people. In 2019 she met her daughter’s cornea recipient. She commented the whole donation process had been an incredible journey. She said she was pleased to be an ambassador for both the NDN and the DNW and expressed appreciation for the organizations and the community.

Mr. Tom Graham stated he was an ambassador for both the NDN and the DNW, noting he was the recipient of organ donations from two donors. He expressed his appreciation for the organizations and the donors and believed the best way to honor his donors was to be an ambassador and share his story. He encouraged everyone to register.

On motion by Chair Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 5A1 be adopted.

**22-0276**      **5A2** Proclaim April 2022 as National County Government Month.

Commissioner Lucey read the Proclamation.

Commissioner Lucey remarked that he was proud to serve as the Commissioner for District 2 in Washoe County, and as the President of the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) which represented all 17 counties in the State of Nevada.

He believed the role of county government was important because of its reach and the services it supported. He noted Washoe County had 2,700 employees and 24 different departments and divisions. He thanked them for the work they did on a daily basis.

Commissioner Lucey invited everyone to listen to Thursday's edition of the *Washoe Life Podcast* which would give listeners a glimpse into four different and interesting roles within the County. He encouraged people to visit the County's social media outlets.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 5A2 be adopted.

### **DONATIONS**

**22-0277**      **6A1** Recommendation to accept donations of [\$4,605.34] from various businesses, organizations and individuals and in-kind donations [estimated value \$229,805.17] from the May Arboretum Society for Regional Parks and Open Space programs and facilities; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the appropriate budget amendments. Community Services. (All Commission Districts.)

**22-0278**      **6B1** Recommendation to: (1) acknowledge various items donated totaling an estimated market value of [\$225.00]; 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 [\$5,696.03] retroactive for the period December 20, 2021 through March 25, 2022; and direct the Comptroller to make the necessary budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)

**22-0279**      **6B2** Recommendation to: (1) acknowledge various items donated totaling an estimated market value of [\$1,025.00]; and (2) accept donations to the Washoe County Human Services Indigent Services Fund in the amount of [\$56.00] retroactive for the period October 13, 2021 through March 25, 2022; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)

**22-0280**      **6B3** Recommendation to: (1) acknowledge various items donated totaling an estimated market value of [\$100.00]; and (2) accept a donation to the Washoe County Human Services Homelessness Services Fund in the amount of [\$4,865.00] retroactive for the period January 1, 2022 through March 25, 2022; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)

**22-0281**      **6B4** Recommendation to: (1) acknowledge various items donated totaling

an estimated market value of [\$17,464.00]; 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 [\$7,144.75] retroactive for the period December 26, 2021 through March 25, 2022; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)

**22-0282**      **6C1** Recommendation to accept donations to Washoe County Regional Animal Services in the amount of [\$13,589.25] retroactive for the period January 1, 2022 through March 31, 2022, from numerous donors (see attached list) to be used for the humane care and treatment of sick and/or injured, stray, abandoned, or at-risk animals received; express appreciation for these thoughtful contributions; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Animal Services. (All Commission Districts.)

**22-0283**      **6D1** Recommendation to accept a donation of [\$10.00] from a private citizen to be used for operating costs for the Washoe County Sheriff's Office K9 Unit, and if approved, direct the Comptroller's Office to make appropriate budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

**22-0284**      **6D2** Recommendation to accept a private grant of [\$1,000.00] from Joan Bates Sims Charitable Fund at the Community Foundation of Western Nevada to be used for protective equipment for deputies, and if approved, authorize Comptroller's Office to make appropriate budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Hill, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Items 6A1 through 6D2 be accepted, directed, and authorized.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – 7A1 THROUGH 7B2**

**22-0285**      **7A1** Approval of minutes for the Board of County Commissioners' regular meeting of March 8, 2022. Clerk. (All Commission Districts.)

**22-0286**      **7A2** 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 Executed Contracts. Clerk. (All Commission Districts.)

**22-0287**      **7B1** Recommendation to approve Commission District Special Fund disbursement pursuant to NRS 244.1505 in the amount of [\$10,000.00] for Fiscal Year 2021-2022; District 4 Commissioner Vaughn Hartung

recommends a [\$5,000.00] grant to Donor Network West -- a nonprofit organization created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes -- for the purpose of supporting the organization's efforts to educate the northern Nevada community about organ, eye and tissue donation to encourage registering as a donor; and a [\$5,000.00] grant to Nevada Donor Network Foundation -- a nonprofit organization created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes - to aid in the Organ Procurement Organization's capital campaign with the goal of creating an organ transplant center in Nevada; approve Resolutions necessary for same; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary disbursements. Manager's Office. (Commission District 4.)

- 22-0288**      **7B2** Recommendation to approve Commission District Special Fund disbursement pursuant to NRS 244.1504 in the amount of [\$10,000.00] for Fiscal year 2021-2022; District 4 Commissioner Vaughn Hartung recommends a [\$10,000.00] grant to Soulful Seeds -- a nonprofit organization created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes -- to aid in their mission of providing healthy, sustainable and fresh food to the most vulnerable in our communities; approve Resolution necessary for same; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary disbursement. Manager's Office. (Commission District 4.)

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

Vice Chair Hill thanked Chair Hartung for his contributions: \$5,000 to Donor Network West to support the organization's efforts to educate the Northern Nevada community about organ, eye, and tissue donation to encourage donor registration; \$5,000 to Nevada Donor Network to aid in the capital campaign with the goal of creating an organ transplant center in Nevada; and \$10,000 to Soulful Seeds to aid in its mission of providing healthy, sustainable, and fresh food to vulnerable members of the community.

On motion by Vice Chair Hill, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 7A1 through 7B2 be approved. Any and all Resolutions pertinent to Consent Agenda Items 7A1 through 7B2 are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

- 22-0289**      **AGENDA ITEM 8** Recommendation to retroactively accept a donation from SilverSummit Healthplan, a health insurance agency, to the Washoe County Housing and Homeless Services division in the amount of [\$240,000.00] in support of case management services for people experiencing homelessness at Nevada Cares Campus and Our Place as well as Justice involved case management embedded within Washoe County jails and detention centers and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

County Manager Eric Brown thanked SilverSummit Healthplan for its outreach and support of the County's Housing and Homeless Services Division.

Vice Chair Hill expressed appreciation for the partnership and noted Manager Brown had worked hard to make it happen. She believed the County would transform lives with the programs implemented as a result of the partnership.

Chair Hartung said the County could not do this without the assistance of the community.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Hill, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 8 be accepted and directed.

**22-0290**      **AGENDA ITEM 9** Recommendation to acknowledge status report and possible direction to staff on the County Manager's recommended Fiscal Year 2023 Budget with estimated appropriations of approximately [\$965,207,730.00] which incorporates Board priorities of funding for existing contractual obligations, supplies, utilities, personnel costs, unfunded mandates from the 2021 Legislative session, second year of property tax refunds, increasing role supporting regional Homeless Services capital improvements and operations, maintaining the County's assets and infrastructure needs, and operating budget requests, and direct the County Manager to return to the Board of County Commission with a Tentative and Final Budget for adoption at a public hearing to be scheduled on May 17, 2022. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

Budget Manager Lori Cooke conducted a PowerPoint, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk, and reviewed slides with the following titles: County Manager's Fiscal Year 2023 Recommended Budget; FY 2023 Budget Timeline; FY 2023 Strategic Planning; Economic Outlook; FY 2023 Economic Outlook; FY 2023 Budget Outlook (two slides); FY 2023 County Manager's Recommended Budget; FY 2023 Recommended Budget (All Funds) (three slides); FY 2023 Recommended Budget (four slides); FY 2023 Recommended General Fund Budget (six slides); General Fund - Fund Balance; FY 2023 Recommended Homelessness Fund Budget; FY 2023 Recommended Budget Other Funds; FY 2023 Recommended Budget CIP; FY 2023 Recommended New CIP Projects; FY 2023 Recommended Other Capital Projects; and Questions/Discussion.

Ms. Cooke discussed the FY 2023 Budget Timeline slide, noting it only represented nine months out of the year. She explained that from July through September the County would begin planning for the next year. The County would work on its budget book and provide financial policies direction and community information. She shared the direction received from the Board during its Strategic Planning Workshop on January 26,

which included the following focus areas: maintaining County assets, parks, sewer, and stormwater; completing Cares Campus construction, and delivering more programming to stabilize and get people into permanent housing; Cities of Reno and Sparks to focus on delivering affordable housing; pausing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for now and coordinating with the annual budget process.

The Economic Outlook slide, Ms. Cooke informed, had been included in the presentation during the April 12 meeting. She remarked that the 12-month Consumer Price Index All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) had been added to the slide to provide a comparison over the last few years. She shared that the County had updated information from the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) from January through March 2022 and highlighted the impacts on inflation. She noted some of the largest impacts on inflation were related to geopolitical concerns such as the invasion of Ukraine and supply chain issues and backlogs related to COVID-19 (C19). She explained that the United States forecast had also been added to the presentation, noting she believed economic growth would slow in 2022 and that it was projected to grow 2.2 percent year-over-year in 2023. She indicated revenue growth would slow down as economic growth slowed, and expenses were expected to increase faster than revenue.

Ms. Cooke spoke about the base budget process, explaining that everything adopted as a permanent part of the budget for the current year would roll forward to become the following year's base budget. Staff would look at necessary adjustments based on things such as contractual increases or collective bargaining, and then discuss the above base items or enhancements, which would be in addition to the base budget. Those items could include Board direction, potential investments, and department requests. She shared that this year the County had received a request for \$35 million above base and 142 full-time equivalents (FTE), but after looking into this it was deemed unsustainable. Ms. Cooke reminded that staff met with the members of the Board and the departments, and County Manager Eric Brown had been involved throughout the entire budget process. She noted the same process was followed for the operating budget as well as the capital projects budget.

The total recommended budget appropriations for FY 2023, Ms. Cooke observed, were approximately \$965.2 million. She pointed out that this would be considered a small budget for some agencies but was significant for Washoe County. She spoke about Governmental Funds, which were comprised of the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Capital Project Funds, and Debt Service Funds. Proprietary Funds, she said, were made up of Enterprise Funds and Internal Service Funds. Enterprise Funds were run like a business, and Internal Service Funds were funds that supported things such as equipment services, health benefits, and risk management. Several highlights from the budget recommendations were identified, including increasing the Stabilization Fund to 1 percent, the expansion of CARES Campus operating costs for Homelessness Services, and the addition of 93.3 FTEs. She shared that the Stabilization Fund had been accessed twice since the floods in 2017 and had also been replenished twice. She remarked that staff had

done due diligence, and she opined that all the recommendations within the budget would be sustainable.

Ms. Cooke observed that the General Fund budget was the largest, noting it supported practically every function within the Governmental Funds. She reported that 84 percent of the General Fund revenues were made up of property tax and consolidated tax (C-Tax). The remaining revenues came from fines and fees, transfers in from other funds, charges for services, and other similar categories. She shared that the General Fund Uses by Type included personnel costs, services and supplies, settlement payments, and transfers out. She spoke about the recommended new positions, noting basically every department was receiving a recommendation for additional personnel. She informed that due to ongoing collective bargaining, departments may not be able to begin recruitment for additional positions or begin certain projects until July 1 or later. She commented the County would also see reclassifications, but a lower number than had been seen over the past few years.

Ms. Cooke spoke about the transfers out from the General Fund. She shared there was \$7 million in ongoing transfers and \$38 million in one-time transfers. She commented that the \$7 million for ongoing transfers had not been sufficient, but it was an increase from the approximately \$1.5 million the County struggled with when it first came out of the recession. She reported the County had \$9.4 million in deferred projects at the end of FY 2020 and into FY 2021 due to C19. She spoke about the Homelessness Fund, noting it did not exist in FY 2021 which was why there were no actuals listed in the presentation. An estimate was provided for FY 2022 and a recommendation for FY 2023. She spoke about the recommended new positions and reclassifications, stating they would be broken out into detail and provided to the Board during its meeting on May 17.

The FY 2023 Capital Improvement and Infrastructure Scorecard Projects recommended budget appropriations totaled \$125.8 million, Ms. Cooke informed. She noted that 46 percent of the appropriations were attributed to the Utilities Fund, with the largest project being the continuation of the South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (STMWRF) 2020 Expansion Project. She shared that the County closed on State Revolving Fund (SRF) bond funding in January for this project. Chair Hartung asked to confirm that the STMWRF project was not being funded by taxpayer dollars. Ms. Cooke replied that was correct; it was supported by Utility Funds, which were part of the Enterprise Fund and not within the General Fund.

Ms. Cooke remarked that over \$247 million in Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project requests were made for FY 2023 to FY 2027. She shared that the County first identified available funding for multi-year projects the Board had already approved, noting these projects were already in process and the County was legally obligated to move forward on many of them, such as the P25 Radios. Then there were the recommended new CIP projects for FY 2023, which she said totaled \$19.5 million. Most of these projects were considered one-time, high-risk, and/or deferred maintenance

projects. She commented that the recommended projects were submitted by subject matter experts and departments and were evaluated and prioritized by the CIP Committee.

The facilities and building projects, Ms. Cooke noted, were recommended because they had been identified on the infrastructure scorecard as areas needing attention. The subtotal for these projects was estimated at \$14.5 million and would include maintenance or replacement of things such as roofs, doors, heating and air, and flooring. She observed that the Sheriff Records Detention Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) System was a shared regional expense, and the County's portion was \$2.1 million. The project included records management, corrections management, and dispatch. She mentioned the In-Building P25 Bi-Directional Amplifiers (BDA) Upgrade, noting this was needed to ensure the P25 radios worked in the buildings, which was an issue in other jurisdictions. Ms. Cooke stated several projects had been requested every year, and though they needed to be done, funding had been an issue. She asserted that the longer these projects were put off, the more expensive they would become. Among these were library renovations and senior center building improvements.

Ms. Cooke spoke about the Parks Capital Fund, stating all of the projects were noted as carryover but there were a few that were new and would become carryover projects in the next fiscal year.

The Utilities Fund, Ms. Cooke said, included many projects with the largest three in terms of the estimated costs being the STMWRF expansion, the Pleasant Valley Interceptor (PVI) Reach 3 Conveyance Project, and the Steamboat Lift Station. She reminded that these were funded through ratepayer utility rates and were not supported by the General Fund or taxpayer funds.

Ms. Cooke explained that the next steps were for the County to come back to the Board on May 17 for the public hearing and adoption of the FY 2023 budget. She noted there would be two separate agenda items, one would be the budget for adoption and the other would include a breakdown of the five-year CIP to include the carry forward projects and all the projects that come before the Board every year. She informed that it was statutorily required for the County to submit the final FY 2023 budget to the State of Nevada by June 1, and the five-year plan to the State's Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) and the Washoe County Debt Management Commission (DMC) by August 1.

Commissioner Lucey opined that Assembly Bill (AB) 424 was one of the most challenging pieces of legislation to come out of Carson City in years, due to the impacts the unfunded mandate had on the County. He stated that district attorneys and judges across the State were having difficulties addressing the needs of the new laws, and the Washoe County District Attorney's (DA) Office had asked for 14 positions to fulfill their needs and meet the requirements. He understood that it impacted not only the DA's Office, but also the District Court, the Justice Courts in the Cities of Reno and Sparks, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO), and the Alternate Public Defender. He stated there was a major shift in how the County processed justice and criminal cases. The recommended budget proposed seven FTEs, and Commissioner Lucey did not believe that

was adequate. He suggested that these positions be prioritized and that the budget include the original ask of 14 FTEs because he believed the DA's Office and the WCSO would be the most impacted by transfers. He observed it was now the County's duty to defend why individuals should be incarcerated or held on bail, which he thought was a challenge to public safety. He stated adequate staffing levels were needed to prepare for hearings in a timely manner. He asked that the proposed FTEs in the recommended budget return to the originally requested numbers to address AB 424, if not at least 11 or 12 FTEs, noting this could be scaled back in one year if it was feasible to do so.

**11:43 a.m. Commissioner Jung left the meeting.**

Ms. Cooke informed that included in the seven FTEs were Deputy District Attorney positions as well as support staff positions. Commissioner Lucey said he appreciated the positions that were accounted for, but wanted to ensure program specialists, victims' advocates, and support staff positions were funded to adequately address the tight timelines resulting from AB 424.

Vice Chair Hill asked about the new CIP recommendations and whether they followed the scorecard that was outlined to the Board. Ms. Cooke replied yes. Vice Chair Hill requested that in the future the scorecard be provided to the Board with the budget so the members of the Board could better understand the requests and be able to explain the projects to their constituents. She noted during the last budget the Board was excited about the prospect of transforming the County's parks and she was pleased to see there were several park programs included in the recommended FY 2023 budget. She noted the North Valleys Library had been on the list for a long time and that she would like to see this be addressed down the line. She observed the County was looking into the possibility of leveraging infrastructure funds and ARPA funds. She commended the departments that asked for reclassifications in the budget, noting it was the transparent way for the Board and the community to see the requests.

Vice Chair Hill expressed excitement about the additional funding for the County's road CIP and wondered if that was a direct response to the requests from the Board and the community regarding road maintenance concerns. Ms. Cooke responded that they were not all new projects, and a detailed breakdown of the projects would be provided to the Board during the May 17 meeting. Vice Chair Hill thanked Ms. Cooke and said the Board would like to see potential funding for infrastructure projects. She noted that Chair Hartung and Commissioner Lucey had also discussed this and potential funding for public safety projects with the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC). She looked forward to seeing these updates at the next meeting, along with the information Commissioner Lucey had requested regarding additional FTEs in the DA's Office.

Chair Hartung said he did not disagree with Commissioner Lucey about the additional FTEs in the DA's Office but he was hopeful the County could find a different way to fill the existing recommended positions and address the needs of the office without creating additional FTEs. He suggested the Board sue the State when unfunded mandates

were passed. He opined that if the State was going to force these mandates on the County, then it should provide the funding.

Chair Hartung wondered about two of the line items totaling almost \$43 million which were listed on slide 19 of the PowerPoint presentation. He noted they were for indigent services and the Homelessness Fund and asked if they were one-time transfers. Ms. Cooke answered that they were ongoing transfers. She stated the indigent services funds were ongoing and there was an increase every year that was statute-related dating back to when it was limited to indigent medical, but the Legislature had expanded it to indigent services. She spoke about the Homelessness Fund, noting the transfers were in place for operations and support. She shared that there were some positions temporarily funded by ARPA that the County would have to take into consideration to avoid losing traction in providing services once the funding was gone. Chair Hartung expressed frustration, noting the County was spending a lot of money and he wanted to see progress.

**11:50 a.m. Commissioner Jung returned.**

Commissioner Jung asserted that the Board would always be the recipient of unfunded mandates, and she had no problem initiating a lawsuit against the State. She said she loved when the State handed things over to the County and wished the cities did more of this because she believed the County did things best. She opined that the County had absorbed so much from the State over the past 15 years and had shown that it could do things better and do them without the State's money. She said she was still open to the idea of a lawsuit and reminded that Commissioner Lucey was the President of the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO). She thought there was potential to work with the Nevada League of Cities to put pressure on the State.

Commissioner Jung asked for a future agenda item to include a full audit of the County's indigent healthcare, with a focus on how it was paid to the local hospitals and how it was being used. She said an audit had not been conducted during her time on the Board. She observed that if a person were to get hurt in Washoe County and did not have insurance, their care was paid for by the County's citizens. She also wanted the hospital associations to come present to the Board and explain what the standard operating procedures were for available beds, regardless of whether a pandemic was occurring. She opined hospitals did not keep a lot of beds available because they wanted to make their board investors and stockbrokers future billionaires. She believed it was the standard operating procedure to limit available beds and said hospitals did not even have available beds pre-pandemic. She asserted the Board should inform the hospital associations of what was required by the County to provide indigent care and the County should have some say in how the hospitals operated, especially the nonprofits. She thought the County's voters and taxpayers would like to see where their money was going regarding indigent medical care.

Chair Hartung agreed with the comments made by Commissioner Jung. He wanted to make sure that the money granted to the County to make the community safe,

secure, and healthy was sustainable. He thought having an audit of the County's indigent healthcare was a great idea.

Chair Hartung asked Ms. Cooke what she needed from the Board. Ms. Cooke responded that she would like the Board to provide comments and direction to staff, and to be directed to come back on May 17 to present the final budget for approval. Manager Brown said he would take the comments from the Board about the DA's Office back to staff for further discussion but wanted to point out that the DA's Office had taken a different approach than other departments to address the AB 424 issues. He agreed with Chair Hartung that there may be ways to get the work done that would not require additional FTEs. He informed that the Board had approved six ARPA-funded positions in December, and it was now April and only one of those positions had been filled. He supported the DA's Office but thought this was an important piece of information for the Board to consider and understand how the budget recommendations had been determined. Manager Brown shared that he had a discussion with District Attorney Chris Hicks and informed him that if the DA's Office was able to get to full staffing as budgeted and was still having difficulties with the workload then another conversation could be had to determine a solution.

Commissioner Lucey thanked Manager Brown for the clarification and said he was open to any opportunity to address the needs of the DA's Office due to AB 424. He agreed there were ways to start small and that the Board could augment the budget after July 1 if the funding was available. He wanted to voice his concern about the legislation and the impacts it had on the County. He agreed that the staffing was not readily available to fill the positions which was a whole different challenge. He remarked that judges were paid for by the State but everything else had to be paid for by the County and he thought that the impacts to the State were nominal when legislation like this was passed. He wanted to ensure the County was adequately prepared to deal with any issues resulting from the passage of State legislation. He opined that many of the State legislators had not served in local positions previously and did not understand the needs of county or city governments and what it took to keep the municipalities running efficiently. He said he planned to be more aggressive during the next legislative session.

**12:09 p.m. Chair Hartung left the meeting.**

Vice Chair Hill expressed appreciation for the dialogue regarding funding for the DA's Office. She thought it provided a deeper understanding of the department's needs and would be beneficial if and when the DA's Office needed to request additional funding for staff support.

Commissioner Jung cautioned the Board and the County Manager that there was tension with the elected department heads, and it was important for the Board to maintain its flexibility and ability to problem-solve. She noted the Board had never been afraid to re-open a budget if it decided it had overfunded or underfunded a certain area. She thanked Commissioner Lucey for his advocacy at the Legislature. She promised that once she was no longer on the Board, she would be happy to help in Carson City however

she could. She remarked that department heads were elected to do a job and the Board would do everything it could to ensure they were able to do their jobs. She commented that Manager Brown approached everything from a position of cooperation and tried to address things from a place of “yes” rather than immediately from a place of “no.”

**12:11 p.m. Chair Hartung returned.**

On the call for public comment, Ms. Tracey Hilton-Thomas quoted 1 John 3:18 of the Bible. She wondered about the unemployment rate and how much of the decrease was due to skilled laborers moving out of the area. She noted there were labor shortages in many industries and opined that most people moving to the area were not doing so to work. She believed the economy and the County’s revenue were expected to slow down and asked the Board how it could justify increasing spending. She expressed frustration with the County’s budgetary decisions. She did not think contracts with Dominion should be renewed. She urged the Board not to approve the budget as written.

Mr. Zach Young stated he was the Assistant District Attorney for the DA’s Office who supervised the Criminal Division. He shared that he had been a prosecutor for 17 years and was in attendance to ask for ongoing discussions with staff concerning the DA’s Office budget. He expressed appreciation for the comments made by Commissioner Lucey regarding the funding specific to AB 424. He said he recognized and appreciated the difficulties and challenges of balancing a nearly \$1 billion budget. He remarked that the DA’s Office was concerned with the tight timelines resulting from AB 424. He said that six of the nine support staff positions that were requested were not in the recommended budget, and he opined the current recommendation would not be sufficient for staff to do their jobs in the name of victims’ rights and public safety. He believed the DA’s Office needed to receive proper and adequate funding, noting it had been careful over the years to only ask for what was needed. He thanked the Board for its time and ongoing consideration.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Vice Chair Hill, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 9 be accepted and staff be directed to bring back alternatives and some changes prior to the adoption of the final budget at the May 17 meeting.

**22-0291 AGENDA ITEM 10 Public Comment.**

Ms. Tracey Hilton-Thomas displayed a document, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. She quoted Thomas Merton, Nelson Mandela, and John 13:34 of the Bible. She stated that she had been coming to the Board for over a year and had not called the members of the Board names, requested that the results of the 2020 election be changed, or commented about voting kiosks being hacked. She referenced an email she had sent to the Board on March 9, 2021, noting she had voiced concern about the costs and resources involved in Washoe County’s election processes and wanted to seek

improvements. She asked the Board to consider viable and legal solutions to improve the election system.

Mr. Nicholas St. Jon believed the Board cared more about the removal of the Advanced Signal Warning Systems (ASWS) than voting. He requested the Board eliminate the use of electronic voting machines. He opined that the machines could not be certified or verify that votes would not be altered. He asked the Board to review the document provided previously and hold a discussion on provisional ballot anomalies. He shared that he had submitted a public records request, noting he believed his rights under the Fourth Amendment and the Nevada Constitution were violated when he had to pass through a metal detector and have his belongings searched to enter Chambers. He demanded the metal detectors be removed. He asked to speak with Vice Chair Hill and Commissioner Jung briefly after the meeting.

Ms. Monica Myles, Community Development Manager for Nevada Donor Network (NDN), expressed appreciation for the Board's support of organ, eye, and tissue donation during National Donate Life Month and over the years. She thanked Chair Hartung for his donation and for sharing his personal story. She shared that the NDN Foundation had been established to raise funds to bring additional transplant opportunities to Nevada. Currently, the only transplant center in the State was located at the University Medical Center in Las Vegas, and it only transplanted kidneys. The NDN Foundation's goal was to bring a kidney transplant center to Northern Nevada. She thanked Chair Hartung again for his support.

County Clerk Jan Galassini stated an email was received from Ms. Elise Weatherly, which was placed on file.

**22-0292**      **AGENDA ITEM 11** Announcements/Reports.

Chair Hartung shared that his family had to move to Loma Linda for three months for his daughter's transplant. He said they had thought the transplant could happen at any hospital but were made aware that was not the case. He thanked everyone from Donor Network West and Nevada Donor Network for their work and the help they provided to families throughout the whole donation process. He also thanked the individuals and families that had given the gift of life through eye, tissue, and organ donations.

Commissioner Lucey expressed appreciation for Chair Hartung's support and advocacy of organ donation and thanked him for sharing his story. He shared that Commissioner Jung had been honored that week by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and had received a letter of recognition for her support over the years. He noted Commissioner Jung was an honorary member of the VFW Post 9211 and that her parents had been active members for years. Commissioner Lucey stated through Commissioner Jung's charitable donations, time, and energy, the VFW would be able to provide food and supplies to over 200 families in the community. He noted that Commissioner Jung's father received a Legacy Award.

Commissioner Jung informed that Commissioner Lucey was honored as well, noting he had been able to secure the VFW a free vendor booth to sell their poppies at the air races last year. She expressed appreciation for Commissioner Lucey's attendance at the VFW event that week and said it meant a lot to the members to have the support of local elected officials.

Commissioner Lucey said it was an honor to be at the event and remarked that support of the veteran community was important to the Board and its work.

Chair Hartung observed many things were going on in the community that the members of the Board were involved in and thanked them for their work.

Commissioner Lucey shared that the VFW Post Commander would like to be invited to speak to the Board at a future meeting. Chair Hartung thought that was a great idea.

Chair Hartung remarked that his daughter was able to go on to attend medical school at Stanford University.

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**12:37 p.m.** There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

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**VAUGHN HARTUNG**, Chair  
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

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

*Minutes Prepared by:  
Lauren Morris, Deputy County Clerk*