

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

JANUARY 3, 2023

PRESENT:

**Vaughn Hartung, Chair\***  
**Alexis Hill, Vice Chair**  
**Michael Clark, Commissioner**  
**Mariluz Garcia, Commissioner**  
**Jeanne Herman, Commissioner**

**Janis Galassini, County Clerk**  
**Eric Brown, County Manager**  
**Nathan Edwards, Assistant District Attorney**

\* \* \* \* \*

**23-0003A** **AGENDA ITEM 1** Oath of office for newly elected officials by Chief Judge Lynne K. Simons.

Chief Judge Lynne K. Simmons administered the Oaths of office to the following individuals:

**County Commissioners**

Michael E. Clark – Washoe County Commissioner, District 2  
Mariluz Garcia – Washoe County Commissioner, District 3  
Jeanne Herman – Washoe County Commissioner, District 5

**Justice Court**

Erica Flavin – Sparks Justice Court  
Kendra Bertschy – Reno/Verdi Justice of the Peace, Department 2

**General Improvement District**

David Noble – Trustee, Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID)

**Verdi TV District**

Olivia Banbury – Trustee, Verdi TV District

\* \* \* \* \*

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:36 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, County Clerk Jan Galassini called roll and the Board conducted the following business:

**10:36 a.m. Chair Hartung called the meeting to order.**

Chair Hartung announced the loss of two important people in the community. He said Evelyn Mount, the namesake for the Evelyn Mount Northeast Community Center who was responsible for feeding tens of thousands of people, had recently passed away. He indicated she was an extraordinary figure in the community. He added that Janet Phillips, who was responsible for starting the Tahoe-Pyramid Bike Trail, had also passed away recently. She had worked for Sierra Pacific Power Co. and NV Energy and was persistent in getting the bike trail completed. He noted it was not quite finished but it was close. He asked for a moment of silence.

Chair Hartung mentioned he had to leave at 10:45 a.m. to go to Carson City for the swearing-in of the Governor-Elect.

**10:37 a.m. Vice Chair Hill assumed the gavel.**

**23-0003 AGENDA ITEM 4 Public Comment.**

Mr. Mark Neumann wished the Board a happy new year and congratulated the newly elected officials. He spoke about issues on Sun Valley Boulevard, which belonged to the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), and expressed frustration that the roads in that area did not have sidewalks. He mentioned traffic on Seventh and Fifth Streets and noted without sidewalks there was only mud and a ditch. He commented that improvements were needed especially on Seventh Street which had a heavy pedestrian presence. He offered his assistance to work with anyone he could to help get this accomplished.

Mr. Roger Edwards stated he was the Vice President of the Golden Valley Property Owners Association and had been a member of that board since 1994. He mentioned the Golden Valley recharge program, the first in the nation, stating it had gone bad. He said he was a co-developer of the community system which recharged over 88,000 cubic meters of water into the ground. He indicated the recharge system had unfortunately flooded Golden Valley, noting the lower homes had water tables as high as five feet. The septic systems of those homes were underwater, and wells had water coming out of the casing and onto the ground. He asserted Division Director of Engineering and Capital Projects Dwayne Smith was aware of the issues for many years. He said the system was shut down six years prior, but residents were still being charged \$22.00 per month and there were 630 homes on the system. He thought Mr. Smith was dragging his feet about resolving the issue. He encouraged his neighbors not to pay bills for a service they were not receiving. He asserted he tried to hire an attorney to sue the County, but the County was too big to sue.

Ms. Donna Clontz provided a document for the Board, which was placed on file with the Clerk. She noted she had been an elder's advocate in the County for the past 20 years. She wished the Board a happy new year. She stated senior volunteers were organizing many resource fairs for the senior community which was possible due to a small grant that was received. She mentioned the fairs were being put on with the cooperation of the County libraries. Two events had been held at the Sparks Library and two more events were scheduled for the Northwest Reno Library on January 9 and February 13. She noted the events were free. She said about 20 tables were set up at the fair with different resources available to seniors. The resources included the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), the Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN), housing ideas, connecting individuals to additional services, caregiving, volunteer opportunities, advocacy opportunities, and more. She noted additional events would be held at community libraries, including South Valleys, and either North Valleys or Spanish Springs. The goal was to spread the events throughout the County to reach seniors who had a hard time getting from one end of the County to the other. She hoped the roads would be cleared of snow and people would be able to get to Monday's event safely. She invited the Commissioners to attend the resource fair and encouraged them to invite their constituents. She wanted to meet with some of the Commissioners, along with her volunteers, to discuss senior issues in the community. She invited County Manager Eric Brown and the Board members to speak at one of the monthly senior coalition meetings. She expressed excitement about the positive things happening in 2023.

**\*10:45 a.m. Chair Hartung left the meeting.**

Mr. Nicholas St. Jon provided a document for the Board, which was placed on file with the Clerk. He read from the last page of the document he provided. His comments were related to elections; he opined the voting system was broken. He spoke about affidavits submitted that contained information about violations against the Registrar of Voters' (ROV) Office during the election process. He expressed frustration about public records requests being severely delayed or ignored. He indicated he was denied access to observe the Logic and Accuracy Test (LAT) in an up-close manner, stating he had been permitted to in the past but was now required to view the process from inside a glass observation room. He believed this action went against the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS). He mentioned alleged inaccuracies in Commission District 1, claiming the 2020 general election cast of vote records could not have occurred naturally. He previously requested a meeting with Sheriff Darin Balaam to report supposed fraud but was instead met by the Undersheriff and Assistant Sheriff. The Sheriff's staff acknowledged there could be something happening with the voting machines but refused to have the machines removed. He spoke about a case being filed, Case #22-5105, which was misdirected to the Secretary of State (SOS) instead of the Attorney General (AG). He requested a third-party audit of the ROV, its staff, policies and procedures, affidavits filed concerning violations, the internal auditor, challenges submitted prior to the general election, and all public records requests and the handling of them by the ROV and the District Attorney (DA). He demanded the security processes for entering the Commission Chambers be halted immediately.

Mr. Cliff Low congratulated all the people who were sworn in and opined it was a difficult time to run for elected office. He credited those individuals who chose to expose their lives to the current environment. He acknowledged and gave special congratulations to the newly elected Commissioners. He believed local elected officials had a greater effect on the lives of the people. He thought the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) held most of the power to have that effect on people's lives. He asserted he cared enough to come to the meetings on occasion. He encouraged each Commissioner to insist that supporters made this a forum where people could talk and behave civilly, stating the way people spoke during BCC meetings was horrible. He thought if people's behavior continued in this manner, meetings would be degraded into chaos and anarchy. He asserted the changes people wanted to be made would not be possible due to normal business not being conducted. He encouraged people to be civil and not threaten people or harass public officials. He mentioned he would be contacting the Commissioners to discuss issues that affected Washoe Valley and the entire County.

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

**23-0004**      **AGENDA ITEM 11** Announcements/Reports.

County Manager Eric Brown thanked all Washoe County employees who worked throughout the weekend to keep the community safe. He thanked the Sheriff's Office for transporting seniors, disabled individuals, and others to safe places and warming centers. He asserted the storms were forecasted to continue over the next few days and urged the public to stay home when possible and work remotely to allow crews to clear snow from the roads. He stated a warming center was opened at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center. He thanked the Peppermill Resort and The Row for offering discounted rooms to those without power and mentioned more than 500 people had taken advantage of the opportunity as of that morning. NV Energy reported the current number of Washoe County residents without power was 4,600, which was down from the 12,000 who had originally been out of power. He asserted staff continued to coordinate with the Emergency Management team to ensure the proper steps were being taken to resolve the issues. He asked people to be patient with the snowplows as it continued to snow. He noted it was taking longer to clear the roads, but this was not due to a lack of effort.

Commissioner Herman thanked everyone who supported her during her campaign. She welcomed the new Commissioners and said she was looking forward to working with them.

Commissioner Garcia thanked the men and women who helped keep the lights on, the roads clear, and provided shelter. She expressed thanks to Vice Chair Hill for setting up the onboarding process for her over the past month. She thanked the staff in the County Manager's office for taking the time to meet with her. She congratulated the Commissioners. She thanked her friends, family, and supporters.

Commissioner Clark thanked his supporters and staff. He believed this was the heaviest snow he had seen in his district over the past 18 or 19 years and said people were struggling. He thought the County was doing a good job clearing the roads and hoped the power would be back on soon. He mentioned many people were stuck in their homes. He thanked the County crews that were trying to keep the roads open.

Vice Chair Hill thanked staff and the amazing community members for helping over the weekend with power outages and snow-covered roads. She expressed appreciation to Manager Brown for keeping the Board informed of those situations. She looked forward to working with the new Board and thought it would be a productive 2023.

### **DONATIONS**

**23-0005**      **5A1** Recommendation to accept a donation in the amount of [\$45,000.00] from the Vera Silberstein Gift Trust for improvements to Bowers Mansion. Community Services. (Commission District 2.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Herman, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Chair Hartung absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 5A1 be accepted.

### **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – 6A1 THROUGH 6C2**

**23-0006**      **6A1** Recommendation to approve a Grant of Easement between Washoe County (Grantor) and Incline Village Center, L.P. (Grantee), on a portion of Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 132-201-07, 774 Mays Boulevard, Incline Village, Nevada [for the appraised value of \$113,375.00] to support the Lower Wood Creek Phase II Water Quality Improvement Project. The easement is necessary for the construction and maintenance of the stormwater basin associated with the Lower Wood Creek Phase II Water Quality Improvement Project to reduce sedimentation loading to Lake Tahoe in alignment with Washoe County's long term commitment to enhance lake water clarity. Community Services. (Commission District 1.)

**23-0007**      **6A2** Recommendation to approve a Grant of Easement between Washoe County (Grantor) and the State of Nevada, acting through the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) (Grantee) on a portion of Mesa Park Road, Washoe County, Nevada. The easement is necessary for NDOT to provide maintenance, construction, reconstruction, and repairs to NDOT retaining wall facilities located in Mesa Park Road adjacent to West 4th Street [no cost to Washoe County]. (Commission District 1.)

**23-0008**      **6B1** Recommendation to approve a grant awarded to the Washoe County Library System from the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Community Education Grant in the amount of [\$1339.00 with no match required] for a retroactive term of July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023 for the purchase of a hydroponics Living Library Garden at the Incline Village Library; direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments; and authorize the Director to sign the grant award documents. Library. (All Commission Districts.)

**23-0009**      **6C1** Recommendation to accept the Continuum of Care Agreement for the Shelter Plus Care Program from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the amount of [\$177,792.00; \$44,448.00 county match] to provide housing and supportive services for homeless individuals, retroactive to August 1, 2022 through July 31, 2023; authorize the Director to retroactively execute the grant agreement; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)

**23-0010**      **6C2** Recommendation to accept a Continuum of Care - Permanent Supportive Housing 2 Program Grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in the amount of [\$136,382.00; \$34,096.00 county match] to provide housing and supportive services for homeless families retroactive for the period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023; authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency to retroactively execute the agreement; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)

Commissioner Clark requested Agenda Item 6D1 be pulled for discussion.

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

On motion by Commissioner Herman, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Chair Hartung absent, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 6A1 through 6C2 be approved.

**23-0011**      **6D1** Recommendation to reappoint Mr. James Ainsworth and Ms. Barbara "Bobbi" Lazzarone as regular members to serve on the Washoe County Board of Equalization with terms to expire June 30, 2026; and appoint Mr. John Briscoe as an alternate member with a term to expire June 30, 2023. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

Commissioner Clark asked about the process to advertise the board positions and whether people were aware these positions were open. He stated coming from the Assessor's Office he knew the Board of Equalization (BOE) was an important board.

He thought the BOE needed some diversity and possibly new members. He requested the item be delayed and the positions be advertised to see whether there was interest from other citizens in the community.

Vice Chair Hill supported the delay as long as it would not put the meetings in jeopardy of lacking a quorum. County Clerk Jan Galassini thought there would still be a quorum. She indicated there was an online application for the BOE positions. She said Mr. John Briscoe submitted an application and was willing to be an alternate for the BOE. She noted she received confirmation from Mr. James Ainsworth and Ms. Barbara "Bobbi" Lazzarone indicating their interest in reappointment to the board. She mentioned typically there was not much interest during the application process.

Vice Chair Hill mentioned this Board could inform its constituents and if citizens were not interested, the Board could move forward with the candidates listed.

**23-0012**      **AGENDA ITEM 7** Recommendation for discussion and possible action in regards to the appointment and/or reappointment of Commissioners to boards and commissions, alteration of terms of service on boards and commissions where legally permissible, and such other action as the board of commissioners may desire to take in regards to those administrative matters. Boards and commissions for which possible changes to appointments could be made under this item include all of the boards and commissions listed at the end of this agenda as the “various” boards and commissions that commissioners may be members of or liaisons to. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

After discussion, the appointments were decided as follows:

<b>Board/Commission</b>	<b>Commissioners</b>
Animal Service Advisory Board	Commissioner Garcia – Primary
Community Homeless Advisory Board	Vice Chair Hill – Primary Commissioner Clark – Primary Commissioner Garcia – Alternate
District Board of Health	Commissioner Garcia – Primary
Downtown Reno Business Improvement District	Commissioner Garcia – Primary Commissioner Clark – Alternate
Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN)	Commissioner Garcia – Primary Commissioner Clark – Alternate
Nevada Association of Counties Board of Directors (NACO)	Commissioner Herman – Primary Vice Chair Hill – Primary Commissioner Clark – Alternate
Nevada Tahoe Conservation District Board of Supervisors	Vice Chair Hill – Primary Commissioner Garcia – Alternate
Nevada Works	Commissioner Herman – Primary
Regional Transportation Commission	Chair Hartung – Primary Vice Chair Hill – Primary

	Commissioner Clark – Alternate Commissioner Garcia– Alternate Commissioner Herman – Alternate
Reno-Sparks Convention & Visitors Authority	Chair Hartung – Primary
State Land Use Planning Advisory Council (SLUPAC)	Commissioner Herman – Primary
Tahoe Prosperity Center Board of Directors	Vice Chair Hill – Primary
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Governing Board	Vice Chair Hill – Primary Commissioner Garcia – Alternate
Tahoe Transportation District Board of Directors	Vice Chair Hill – Primary Commissioner Garcia – Alternate
Tahoe Transportation Commission	Vice Chair Hill – Primary Commissioner Garcia – Alternate
Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency Governing Board	Chair Hartung – Primary Commissioner Clark – Primary Commissioner Herman – Primary
Truckee Meadows Water Authority	Vice Chair Hill – Primary Chair Hartung – Primary Commissioner Clark – Alternate Commissioner Garcia– Alternate Commissioner Herman – Alternate
Truckee North Tahoe Transportation Management Association Board	Vice Chair Hill – Primary
Truckee River Flood Management Authority	Vice Chair Hill – Primary Commissioner Garcia – Primary Commissioner Clark – Alternate Chair Hartung – Alternate Commissioner Herman – Alternate
Vya Conservation District	Commissioner Herman – Primary
Washoe County Criminal Justice Advisory Committee	Commissioner Clark – Primary
Washoe County Debt Management Commission	Commissioner Herman – Primary
Washoe County Internal Audit Committee	Commissioner Herman – Primary Vice Chair Hill – Alternate
Washoe County Investment Committee	Chair Hartung – Primary Vice Chair Hill – Primary
Washoe County Legislative Liaison	Vice Chair Hill – Liaison Commissioner Herman – Liaison
Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission	Commissioner Garcia – Liaison
Washoe County Senior Services Advisory Board Liaison	Commissioner Clark – Primary Commissioner Garcia – Alternate



Washoe County School District Capital Funding Protection Committee	Vice Chair Hill – Primary Commissioner Herman – Primary
Washoe County School District Oversight Panel	Vice Chair Hill – Primary Commissioner Herman – Primary
Washoe County Stadium Authority	Commissioner Garcia – Primary Chair Hartung – Primary Vice Chair Hill – Alternate Commissioner Clark – Alternate Commissioner Herman – Alternate
Washoe Storey Conservation District	Commissioner Herman – Primary Commissioner Clark – Alternate
Western Nevada Development District (WNDD)	Commissioner Clark – Primary Commissioner Herman – Alternate
Western Regional Water Commission	Chair Hartung – Primary Vice Chair Hill – Appointed by TMWA

On the call for public comment, Mr. Gary Schmidt said he was a current resident of Storey County. He mentioned he ran for a seat on the Board of County Commissioners twice but was defeated. He reminded everyone that the position on the District Board of Health (DBH) was very important. He noted prior to this year, Bob Lucey and Kristopher Dahir both served on that board. He asserted both men ran for office in the 2022 election and lost. He mentioned Mr. Dahir still held a position on the Sparks City Council. He said there was a disfavor towards Mr. Lucey and Mr. Dahir based on the poor performance of the DBH. He acknowledged Vice Chair Hill served on the DBH and suggested she pay more attention to what went on with that board. He believed the DBH required more oversight from the community members and other councils. He spoke about the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA) Governing Board being important to land use. He asserted Chair Hartung was currently on that board with only two years left before his term limit. He thought Commissioner Clark would be a better choice for the TMRPA Governing Board due to his extensive real estate background. He thought it was a forward-looking board and he opined Chair Hartung was not serving that board well.

Vice Chair Hill explained Districts 4 and 5 were mandatory members on the TMRPA Governing Board due to redistricting. She said she would gladly allow Commissioner Clark to take the primary seat if he was interested. Commissioner Clark indicated he was interested.

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

**23-0013**      **AGENDA ITEM 8** Recommendation to adopt Resolution R23-02 to temporarily remove reclaimed water use rates for the 2023 irrigation season to encourage improved management practices of reclaimed water irrigation and reduction of potable water resources through increased use of reclaimed water. [Reductions in reclaim water rate revenues are estimated at \$350,000 in Fiscal Year 23 and \$750,000 in Fiscal Year 24]. Community Services. (Commission District 2.)

Vice Chair Hill expressed excitement about the future of the project. She mentioned this would be the second year the rates had been reduced to zero for irrigation fees. She wondered about the plan moving forward to initiate the fee schedule the Board adopted in 2012. Division Director of Engineering and Capital Projects Dwayne Smith said staff had been planning for several years to initiate fees but would not start during this fiscal cycle. He indicated he provided updates to the Board about the plan for reclaimed water in the various wastewater treatment facilities. He mentioned he would gladly provide a formal presentation in the near future for the benefit of the new Commissioners. He stated reclaimed water was the last element County staff dealt with as part of its responsibility to treat wastewater. He explained wastewater came into treatment plants and was treated to meet federal and State standards. Reclaimed water could be used for different purposes depending on the treatment facility it was released from. He stated the South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (STMWRF) was only permitted to discharge reclaimed water for irrigation and construction water purposes. He explained the STMWRF reclaimed water could not be allowed to enter back into surface water bodies such as the Truckee River. He explained there was an extensive purple pipe/reclaimed water distribution system in the South Truckee Meadows. The water was treated and delivered to schools, parks, and roadside irrigation. He commented as development grew there was a need for more places to manage the effluent. The planning efforts for effluent included the development of new locations and some of those areas could be as far West as the Washoe County Golf Course. He noted there was a reclaimed water study being conducted to identify new sites for development and trigger events that would allow the County to move forward. He stated staff did not want to commit more water when it was not yet available. He mentioned staff was in the process of updating rate and connection fee studies. He looked forward to bringing more detailed information back to the Board.

Vice Chair Hill wondered if it was easier not to charge fees right now due to the lack of reclaimed water data and because the water was primarily being used for public facilities. She wanted to understand because it was a loss of revenue. Mr. Smith said staff was encouraging maximum usage of reclaimed water in the area. He indicated Nevada was the driest State in the union and anything that could be done to preserve the Truckee River and Nevada groundwater was very important. He mentioned over the past couple of years staff had met with large users and encouraged them to use more effluent. He stated the use of reclaimed water helped offset capital investment and allowed larger facilities to treat water to different standards. He said the goal was to treat wastewater to the lowest cost but the highest available use possible. By minimizing infrastructure and operating costs, the County could deliver this water. Additionally, part of the goal was to encourage the use of reclaimed water in place of potable water, or the Truckee River and groundwater.

He informed the program was started several years ago. In 2018 and 2019 the rates were reduced by 50 percent. Last year the reduction was 100 percent, which was what the County was asking for again this year. He mentioned the County had seen increased use of its reclaimed water, increased commitment from large users, and increased interest from other users. He commented this approach was benefiting the utility, and the offset in cost revenue was a fraction compared to the capital costs the County would expend to develop new ways and systems to deal with the effluent water. He stated the user rate fund was robust and could handle the offset of fees again for this year.

Vice Chair Hill said that answered her question, but she wanted to ensure staff was communicating to large users that the County would eventually charge for reclaimed water usage in the future. Mr. Smith indicated all decisions related to fees would require the approval of the Board. Vice Chair Hill shared she was supportive of moving forward with this item.

Commissioner Clark asked for the item to be moved to the next meeting. He mentioned he did not have copies of the item and was unable to review the information as he had issues with power and internet connections due to outages.

Vice Chair Hill questioned whether the delay would create an issue. Mr. Smith responded it would not be a problem, noting irrigation season had not started yet. Vice Chair Hill suggested Mr. Smith take time to sit down with the members of the Commission to discuss the item.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

**23-0014**      **AGENDA ITEM 9** Recommendation to approve a resolution to augment the Capital Improvements Fund in the amount of [\$2,950,907.35], and the Parks Capital Projects Fund in the amount of [\$490,785.42] to increase revenue, expenditure, and transfer authority for capital projects for fiscal year 2023 in accordance with Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 354.598005; and direct the Comptroller to make the appropriate budget amendments. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

Vice Chair Hill expressed excitement to see this item on the agenda. She noted she had no questions or issues with the item.

Commissioner Clark indicated he had the same concern about this item as he did with Item 8, stating he was unable to review the information. He asked to push the item to the next meeting.

County Manager Eric Brown said the item could be brought back for the January 17 meeting.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

**23-0015**      **AGENDA ITEM 10** Public Comment.

County Clerk Jan Galassini shared that every year during Christmas time, the Clerk's Office sponsored the Silver Sleigh Charity Drive. A video was shown, which was placed on file. The video highlighted the number of pounds of food collected during the drive. She thanked all the departments that participated and presented the Silver Sleigh Award to the Registrar of Voters' (ROV) Office. She thanked her staff, Evonne Strickland and Michelle Batter, who accounted for all the donated food. She mentioned there was only one fatality that occurred during the food drive, noting when the Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN) was removing the 15 barrels of food, Jack Skellington's head fell off. She stated it was a very successful year. She invited the ROV to the podium to accept the award. Vice Chair Hill thanked the ROV.

Mr. Nicholas St. Jon welcomed the new Commissioners. He asserted three minutes was not long enough during public comment to build a case. He compared speaking during public comment to presenting a closing argument before a jury and believed three minutes was not ample time. He shared he previously asked Chair Hartung to find a way to allow a dialog to occur between the public and the Board. He thought that was a missing part of these meetings. He indicated citizens who had issues would come to the Board of County Commissioners' (BCC) meetings to speak during public comment, but they felt as if the Board ignored them. He expressed frustration about leaving messages for Commissioners and not receiving responses. He spoke about the information he provided to the Board such as the process of when to release election tallies. He commented he never received a phone call or a request to discuss his suggestions. He asserted citizens requested hundreds of items to be placed on an agenda but it had not happened. He believed County Manager Eric Brown instructed Ben West to install a metal detector in April 2021. He asked for confirmation from Manager Brown and stated if he did not receive a response he would take that as a true statement unless corrected immediately. He understood that one or more of the County Commissioners were involved in the decision to screen people coming into the BCC meetings. He requested confirmation and stressed if the question remained unanswered, he would assume this statement was also true. He demanded the use of the metal detector, security wands, and the searching of citizens halt immediately until a document was produced that authorized this Board to override the U.S. and Nevada Constitutions.

Mr. Gary Schmidt spoke related to his platform when he ran for County Commissioner saying how difficult it was to express a thought, program, or suggestion in only three minutes. He indicated one part of his platform was that the Board extend the public comment time to five minutes at least once a quarter. He opined listening to the people was the most important job the Board had, and he thought people felt they were not being heard. He asserted Board members were allowed to ask and answer questions during public comments, but they could not deliberate on items that were not agendized. He wanted people to be encouraged to participate in meetings. He spoke about lawsuits he submitted against the District Board of Health (DBH). He noted the lawsuits included two Open Meeting Law (OML) violations and five public records request violations. When the cases were settled, he was awarded the requested documents along with monetary

compensation. He stated the DBH had written policies that were violations of the State public records law regarding how it responded to public records and the fees it charged for documents. He mentioned he served on the Board of Equalization (BOE) in Washoe County 20 years prior and stated it was an important board. He believed the recruitment should be broader and he wanted the positions to be advertised.

\* \* \* \* \*

**11:43 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:  
Doni Blackburn and Lauren Morris, Deputy County Clerks*