

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

APRIL 25, 2023

PRESENT:

**Alexis Hill, Chair**  
**Jeanne Herman, Vice Chair**  
**Michael Clark, Commissioner**  
**Mariluz Garcia, Commissioner**  
**Clara Andriola, Commissioner**  
  
**Janis Galassini, County Clerk**  
**Eric Brown, County Manager**  
**Nathan Edwards, Assistant 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:

**23-0247**      **AGENDA ITEM 3** Appearance and presentation by Justin Roper, Chief Alternative Sentencing Officer, on the Department of Alternative Sentencing 2022 Annual Report.

Chief Alternative Sentencing Officer Justin Roper conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Our Agency; Department Overview; Department Responsibilities; Program Statistics; Supervision (4 slides); STAR; Support in Treatment; Preliminary Numbers; Drug Testing by Participant Month; STAR Future Expansion; PAARI Partner; 2022 Sober 24 Statistics; 2022 Sober 24 Highlights; Sober 24 Drug Testing; Thank You.

Chief Roper summarized that the mission of the agency was to provide a service to the community regardless of why it was there. It was created in 2005 and continued to expand on what it did. It was designed as a probation agency that typically handled misdemeanor probation cases, any level of pre-trial cases, and residential confinement.

In the past, Chief Roper explained, the courts gave a set of conditions that the Alternative Sentencing agency was expected to enforce; cases, where conditions were not met with compliance, would result in the offender being placed in jail. The department currently tried to determine the underlying cause for criminal activity, finding it was often driven by mental health issues or substance use disorders (SUDs). Probation cases now involved providing the resources, treatment, and life skills necessary to make substantial changes in people's lives. He indicated it was the County's fiscal responsibility to ensure

people did not sit in jail but rather received the support they needed so they were no longer a burden on the community.

Chief Roper noted Sober 24 had conducted 152,000 drug tests in 2022. The pretrial caseload expanded during the COVID-19 (C19) era. He pointed out cases that required supervision would stay with Alternative Sentencing for one to three years depending on the severity of the initial charge. Often the agency took on more cases than it let go, resulting in a steady increase. As more law enforcement officers and district attorneys (DAs) were added and more cases were being adjudicated through the courts, the agency anticipated a continued rise in the number of supervision cases.

One element on the case management side, Chief Roper went on, was being available at all times so as not to set people up for failure. He stated that, since many home visits were random, people were not always home, and much time was spent locating individuals. Visiting people unannounced allowed the agency to see how they were truly doing in the program, which helped determine whether more resources were needed.

Chief Roper stressed the importance he had placed on utilizing technology since he became Chief in 2020. Historically, Alternative Sentencing relied on people to come to the department, which could put undue hardships on them. The implementation of electronic breath-alcohol monitoring devices allowed people to take videos of themselves using the device remotely, increasing the ability to perform drug testing without impacting people too much. This resulted in a less than 1 percent positivity rate. He noted the agency was monitoring an average of 126 people per month in 2023, up from 76 in 2022. Though it was a time-intensive operation, he felt it provided the public safety that the community deserved.

Chief Roper said the Support Treatment Accountability Recovery (STAR) program was created in October 2022 to address the opioid epidemic by providing wraparound services to those suffering from opioid use disorders. The services in this program incorporated medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) using interactive journaling. It promoted the skills necessary to sustain a lifestyle of recovery. Using funds provided primarily by the County, the agency sought to prevent overdoses. Fentanyl, as an example, was very prevalent, having been found in more than 4 percent of tests.

Chief Roper expressed pride in the STAR program. The program did not take on more than 25 patients to ensure that individualized treatment could be provided, though it continued to seek out additional grants to increase capacity. He pointed out that individuals did not progress to different phases based on a set timeline, but only when all the goals for the first phase had been met. He explained the seven arrests for those 25 individuals over a five-month period showed they were making life changes. Some of those arrests stemmed from other pending crimes, though others were from relapses. He highlighted the chart showing an increase in attendance rate while positivity rates dropped sharply.

Chief Roper said the agency was looking for grants to help fund its own intermediate residential building to provide peer support and long-term care. Services were offered to individuals who were no longer in the program or the judicial system; the hope was that they would someday become peers to promote the STAR program. The agency was the first in Nevada to join the Police Assisted Addiction Recovery Initiative (PAARI), and he noted it received an Impact Award from the County the prior week. The Sober 24 program, he continued, handed out Naloxone as a life-saving measure to anyone who requested it. Sober 24 conducted testing for many out-of-area organizations, including for individuals on probation in other states. He hoped to see the positivity rate drop below 18 percent, though he opined that number was not that high considering how many suffered from addiction.

Commissioner Clark commended Chief Roper on the program. He asked about the details of the organization Chief Roper and his wife were running in Las Vegas. Chief Roper responded it was a private organization modeled after his 25 years of experience; his wife and an operations manager ran the day-to-day operations.

Commissioner Garcia thanked Chief Roper for his communication and transparency. She inquired about the large increase in pretrial cases. Chief Roper responded that, in the past, the County handled its pretrial cases. The Alternative Sentencing department started out handling Reno Justice Court's (RJC) misdemeanor cases for pretrial, and based on RJC's satisfaction with the program, it asked Alternative Sentencing to take on all pretrial cases in 2022, including felony and gross misdemeanor cases. Once cases were bound over, they were handed off to District Court.

Commissioner Garcia asked whether there was anything the Commission could do to support the agency's efforts to obtain grants. She also sought clarification about the house Chief Roper referenced in his presentation. Chief Roper responded the County already provided a lot of support by paying the third-party company Gray Matter to help secure grants. Additionally, County grants coordinators worked directly with Alternative Sentencing's grant coordinator to offer help. Regarding housing, he pointed out there were not many available affordable houses, and room at sober living facilities was usually taken up. He wanted secondary housing where people could go after their time spent in a sober living experience before going back onto the streets. This could result in people having nine months of secured housing, so they could save money to get out of the neighborhoods where they experienced difficulty.

Chair Hill spoke about the Law Enforcement Intervention for Mental Health and Addiction (LIMA) program in Las Vegas, adding she would want to involve Chief Roper heavily if the program was ever adopted in Washoe County. She praised the Chief's compassion for community members.

**23-0248**      **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

Vice Chair Herman expressed concern that there was no agenda item to approve the agenda, which she understood violated the Open Meeting Law (OML). She felt the meeting should not proceed, all actions be voided, and the meeting be rescheduled with more attention paid to the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS).

Chair Hill asked for a legal opinion about the need to approve the agenda. Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Nate Edwards said it was not a requirement, though it used to be a customary practice for this Board. He felt it was a paradox since an agenda was needed to even hold a meeting. With regard to the opening public comment, he cited NRS 241.020(3)(d)(3), which, among other options, provided public comment opportunities for each action item and one item allowing for comments on items not on the agenda. Board of County Commissioners' (BCC) meetings had public comment sections on each action item and the requisite public comment period at the end of the agenda permitting people to speak on items on or off the agenda. Therefore, it complied with the subsection he quoted, and he did not see a legal problem with the agenda. He agreed with Chair Hill's statement about the BCC's practice of exceeding the minimum requirements of the OML. This meeting satisfied that requirement with public comment sections on each action item plus the public comment item at the end of the agenda.

Commissioner Clark opined the American public was used to being treated fairly, and he received much correspondence from people who felt their voices were no longer being heard. He felt the BCC was taking away the voices of people in the community, and the decision was made unilaterally. He said he was not consulted about the decision, and he felt it was not right that one person decided who would be allowed to talk. He did not accept the rationale that it would make things smoother for the Commissioners. He compared the removal of public comment to silencing and shooting protestors of the Vietnam War. He stated the decision cut the public's chance to speak in half.

Commissioner Clark spoke about County Manager Eric Brown's decision to bring in the Elections Group. Chair Hill reminded Commissioner Clark there would be an item later in the agenda to discuss the Elections Group. Commissioner Clark stated people would use the decision to remove the public comment item against them in the election. He entreated the members of the Board to listen to those who said things they did not like. He thought the public needed to be treated fairly and equally.

Chair Hill stated she gave a proclamation for Parkinson's Awareness Month, and she praised those who gave resources to community members with Parkinson's. She congratulated Ormat Technologies Inc. on the opening of a geothermal plant. She indicated translation services were available for anybody who needed them for their public comments. She asked staff to work on an ordinance requiring that any lobbyist or individual who was paid to attend BCC meetings be registered online and wear a badge indicating they were paid lobbyists.

Referencing a prior budget presentation, Commissioner Garcia said the focus would be on making improvements to infrastructure, including a \$7.2 million investment in trails and playgrounds. She spoke about welcoming the International Trails Summit (ITS) conference, the largest gathering of its kind, which featured more than 900 trail advocates from 20 countries. She promoted a concurrent meeting with the Cities of Reno and Sparks later that day where updates would be given on park projects, and a presentation on a potential regional parks district would be provided.

Commissioner Clark described Ormat's operation as well-run, though he expressed frustration that the County did not share information about the opening with the Commissioners. He said he met with residents of Gerlach who were picketing Governor Joe Lombardo's visit to the geothermal plant. Commissioner Clark hoped representatives from Ormat would hold town halls to explain the science to the residents of Gerlach. He said the decision to eliminate the public comment item was not told to him by County staff; rather, he read about it in the newspaper.

**23-0249**      **AGENDA ITEM 5** Presentation and Update on FY 22/23 Second Quarter Status Report for the Washoe County Regional Detention Facility to include security of the jail, conditions of confinement, staffing and medical care of inmates housed at the Washoe County Sheriff's Office; acknowledge receipt of Report. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Captain Tim Mosley conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: COVID-19; Washoe County Detention Facility Health Risk; Welfare of the Inmates; Welfare of Inmates, 3rd Quarter; Welfare of Inmates; Medical Information; NaphCare Medical Data (2 slides); ADP chart; Total Bookings; FY 22/23 3rd Quarter Jail Data; Inmate Assistance Program; Staffing Update. He introduced Captain Sandra Barboza, Lieutenant Randy Vawters, and Mental Health Program Counselor Maggie Dickson, who would be available for questions.

Captain Mosley praised staff for the management of the 29 inmates with COVID-19 (C19), keeping exposures to a minimum. One way of addressing the fentanyl issue in the jail, he went on, was with the availability of Narcan for all deputies. Inmates found guilty of fentanyl possession had been charged and were awaiting court hearings. Of the eight fentanyl overdose cases in the jail, some inmates received Narcan treatments, and none died.

Captain Mosley stated the inmates who went through the Getting Ahead While Getting Out program were motivated by the college credit they received, as well as the reduction in their sentence for completing the program. He said representatives from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provided inmates with instructions on how to fill out the appropriate application forms. He detailed the process by which medical staff referred out individuals with medical conditions, which reduced both the liability of the agency and the cost to the County. Responding to Chair Hill's query,

Captain Mosley mentioned special needs flags were for people with mental health issues, but also to notify deputies of inmates with pacemakers or disabilities.

Captain Mosley expressed concern about how limited bed space was becoming, a problem that was compounded when jail cells were closed to replace old bunks. He noted the inmate population typically rose during warm months. He discussed the high-water mark of 1,385 inmates in 2022, which resulted in longer stays in the intake lobby. Measures were being considered to alleviate some of the overcrowding that was expected, but it was still a concern. He thanked the courts for the increase seen in inmate releases, and he confirmed there were no deaths at the jail during this quarter.

Chair Hill pointed out that the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) was considering adding 12 officers in the next fiscal year, to which Captain Mosley thanked the Board for its support.

Commissioner Clark thought the jail facility was clean and well-run, citing the low number of fights. He asked whether most law enforcement officers began work in the jail as they did elsewhere in the Country. Captain Mosley responded that every trainee started in jail, and their next assignment was dictated by attrition, turnover, and years of service. Commissioner Clark spoke about methods by which fentanyl was smuggled into jails and asked whether those suspected of doing so were segregated. Captain Mosley said those individuals were placed in a holding cell with a camera, and water could occasionally be shut off to allow deputies to see what the inmates were doing. Scanners were used to check people for drugs in their digestive system, though the amounts used for personal use were sometimes too small to pick up with the naked eye. Commissioner Clark requested statistics about how often these situations occurred. Captain Mosley said he would provide the statistics regarding the percentage of smugglers who were caught after booking.

Chair Hill inquired about lengths of stay. Captain Mosley said there were a number of factors. Longer stays would be experienced by the more than 60 inmates who were awaiting homicide trials, as well as those who needed mental health evaluations. Other factors included that most external facilities were already at capacity, the higher level of care needed by some inmates, and fights in the jail.

Vice Chair Herman thanked Captain Mosley for what the WCSO did, saying the Board hoped to provide backup soon.

Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Nate Edwards confirmed Chair Hill's assertion that members of the public could only speak directly about the item on the agenda as per the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS).

On the call for public comment, Mr. Robert Beadles provided documents that were distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. He believed Chair Hill should recuse herself from this and all future votes based on an email where she stated she signed up for two fundraising roles. He pointed out this was not disclosed on her website or the County's website, which he believed was a conflict of interest and a violation of the

NRS. Chair Hill reminded him to keep his comments related to this agenda item. He demanded an investigation into these conflicts of interest and any money she might be receiving for those roles. He said Chair Hill's husband was the Director of the Department of Administration, giving them both intimate knowledge about what was happening in the County. He wondered whether she also sat on the jail's fundraising board, adding he wanted an investigation into every vote she made.

Ms. Janet Butcher disclosed that her comments were not made as part of any organization. She thanked the WCSO for its work with fentanyl, alleging the issue was caused by an open border policy. She felt the funds the County provided to an outside agency could be given to the WCSO instead. She was relieved to see there were no suicides in the jail. She asked about the library trustee position, for which she was reminded by Chair Hill to keep her comments to the topic in Agenda Item 5.

Mr. Nicholas St. Jon praised WCSO staff for the work they did with the budget they had. He spoke about the mistreatment of two inmates, including one who was not receiving their daily supplements. He demanded an investigation into this. He attributed the overcrowding at the jail to lockdowns of businesses, where individuals became criminals to support their families. He declared the current Board was not responsible for this. He said the public would speak on each action item, to which Chair Hill asked him to keep his comments pertinent to the Jail Status Report.

Mr. Bruce Parks expressed appreciation for everything the WCSO did to protect the community, especially in supervising inmates at the jail. He opined the media made the jail out to be the bad guy when really people should not commit crimes so they would not end up there. He asserted the Cares Campus was a crime hotspot, which impacted the deputies at the jail, and it would continue to get worse if the homelessness situation was not addressed. Chair Hill reminded him to keep his comments related to the Jail Status Report. He contested that addressing the homelessness situation made the WCSO's job easier, and the courts would be less congested.

Mr. Jeff Church provided a document that was placed on file with the Clerk. He thanked the jail deputies, who he described as receptive. He argued the meeting did not abide by the Open Meeting Law (OML). Chair Hill requested that he keep his comments pertinent to the Jail Status Report. He felt this item should not be heard because the meeting was not legal, referencing a Board decision from October 2022 to hear public comment at the beginning of the meeting. Chair Hill repeated her request.

Mr. Tom Green explained he was the first Chief Deputy to ever present this report because there was a requirement for the County to inspect the jail. He acknowledged the Sheriff and his staff for running an amazing facility, and he encouraged the public to tour the facility, which he felt was clean and well-run. He thought the numbers were problematic and wondered about the funding for the jail infirmary. He agreed the money spent by the County on the Cares Campus could have been spent on the jail. He believed the time spent by jail staff searching for fentanyl resulted in less time out of jail cells for inmates. He thanked the WCSO for its work.

## **PROCLAMATIONS**

**23-0250**      **6A1** Proclaim April 2023 as Fair Housing Month.

**23-0251**      **6B1** Proclaim April 23 - April 29, 2023 as National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Commissioner Garcia read the Proclamation for Fair Housing Month and presented it to Kate Zook, Executive Director of the Silver State Fair Housing Council (SSFHC). Ms. Zook explained the SSFHC was a nonprofit agency that provided assistance and support for equal housing opportunities throughout the State. The SSFHC had worked with the County for 30 years to support both home seekers and housing providers and to raise awareness in the community. She noted the SSFHC had come a long way in the 55 years of fair housing law, but there was still a long way to go. She thanked the Board for its support.

Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Nate Edwards recommended hearing public comment on both Agenda Items 6A1 and 6B1 before voting on either item.

Vice Chair Herman read the Proclamation for National Crime Victims' Rights Week and presented it to District Attorney (DA) Christopher Hicks. Mr. Hicks thanked the Board, saying it was an important week for victims of crime. He asserted this proclamation showed that putting victims first in the criminal justice system was a priority of the government, which the DA's Office would continue to do.

Commissioner Clark praised Mr. Hicks for his work at the DA's Office, saying the lives of victims of crime were never the same. He thanked the DA for prosecuting those who took advantage of people who could not defend themselves.

On the call for public comment, Mr. Nicholas St. Jon thought making a special class of people was wrong, and while there were issues with housing, the market would take care of them; government involvement was not acceptable. He remarked the Founding Fathers never intended government to force groups of people to submit to them. Regarding the second proclamation, he opined citizens who were required to go through metal detectors were victims of crime. Chair Hill reminded Mr. St. Jon to keep his comments to the proclamations. Mr. St. Jon referenced Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) violations and declared citizens were having their rights violated every time they came to the Chambers.

Ms. Penny Brock spoke about the infringement of her freedom of speech. She did not agree with the Fair Housing Proclamation because she felt tax dollars should not go toward the fair housing movement, which she thought was a growing bureaucracy. She said people should not be on government assistance and should instead work in free enterprise. She spoke about the reliance of people in fair housing neighborhoods in Chicago on welfare checks, saying people should be built up. Regarding the National Crime Victims' Rights Week Proclamation, she brought up the crime occurring among the

homeless population. She applauded the Board for issuing the proclamation, suggesting that welfare funds be redistributed to law enforcement. She said she did not want the City of Reno to turn into Chicago or San Francisco.

Ms. Val White said she had researched Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH), a program originally begun by the United States (U.S.) Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). She commented that counties were required to file reports about population, income, ethnicity, and geography as a way of gaining a better idea of the makeup of that county. She spoke about a suburb of Los Angeles that was required to complete the report before receiving funding, and about how an indirect result of these reports was suburbs becoming clones of larger, metropolitan areas. She believed people did not wish to move to the suburbs to be part of metropolitan areas, and she opposed AFFH because she felt it would destroy suburbs and be unfair to homeowners.

Ms. Elise Weatherly asked what was fair in housing, quoting the religious doctrine that people needed to work to eat. She pointed out her daughter took advantage of the government's offerings. She spoke about her desire to donate to Deputy District Attorney (DDA) Travis Lucia and a City of Sparks employee. She told a story about DDA Lucia handling a case involving her sister and the advice he gave her about people being who they were.

Mr. Robert Beadles provided documents that were distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. He claimed the vote to approve this item should not take place, and Commissioner Garcia should be investigated by the DA. Chair Hill asked how this related to the two proclamations. Mr. Beadles replied he met with the DA and was instructed to bring crimes forward for investigation. He quoted sections of the NRS about the purpose of public bodies, at which point Chair Hill repeated her request that his comments be limited to the subject of the two proclamations. He demanded an investigation into two of the Commissioners.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Vice Chair Herman, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Items 6A1 and 6B1 be adopted.

### **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – 7A1 THROUGH 7D2**

**23-0252** **7A1** Recommendation to 1) approve roll change requests, pursuant to NRS 361.765 and/or NRS 361.768, for errors discovered on the 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 secured and unsecured tax rolls 2) authorize Chair to execute the changes described in Exhibits A and B and 3) direct the Washoe County Treasurer to correct the error(s). [cumulative amount of decrease to all taxing entities \$12,959.93]. Assessor. (All Commission Districts.)

- 23-0253**      **7B1** Recommendation to approve a three-year sponsorship agreement between Washoe County and Great Reno Balloon Race, Inc. for the annual event to be held at Washoe County’s Rancho San Rafael Regional Park, 1595 North Sierra Street, Reno, on September 8-10, 2023, September 6-8, 2024, and September 5-7, 2025, to include waiver of park facility rental and use fees [\$8,825 in waived fees for each event year] in consideration of Washoe County being recognized as a major event sponsor and authorize Assistant County Manager, Dave Solaro, to sign the agreement. Community Services. (Commission District 3.)
- 23-0254**      **7B2** Recommendation to approve an Easement Deed - Access and Utility Easement and Temporary Construction Easement Deed totaling ±10,584 square feet with Washoe County as (“Grantor”) and Digital Technology Solutions, Inc., dba DTS Fiber, an S Corporation as (“Grantee”) pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute 244.137, on Assessor’s Parcel Number 071-240-07, commonly known as Gerlach Roads Maintenance Yard, for the purposes of constructing and maintaining a fiber optic facility to provide broadband facilities to Gerlach, Nevada. Community Services. (Commission District 5.)
- 23-0255**      **7B3** Recommendation to accept a Public Trail Easement between Loop Family Trust (Grantor) and Washoe County (Grantee) to allow relocation of a portion of the Brown’s Creek Trail; and, approve a Perpetual Conservation Land Donation Agreement between Washoe County and The Loop Family Trust to allow public use of the Brown’s Creek Trail, crossing Assessor’s Parcel Number 154-011-07, located near Joy Lake Road, Reno, Nevada. Community Services. (Commission District 2.)
- 23-0256**      **7B4** Recommendation to: (1) Accept Subgrant Agreement Control #DEPS 23-019 from the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Environmental Protection for the Lower Wood Creek Phase II Water Quality Improvement Project in the amount of \$153,000.00 [required match \$153,000.00] for the period of upon approval through December 31, 2024; (2) direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget amendments; and (3) authorize Assistant County Manager, Dave Solaro, to approve any related amendments. The Lower Wood Creek Phase II Water Quality Project will 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.)
- 23-0257**      **7B5** Recommendation to: (1) approve Consent to Real Property Transfer between Washoe County, Northern Nevada HIV Outpatient Program, Education and Services, (Nevada Hopes) a Nevada nonprofit corporation (“Grantor”) and NNH QALICB, a Nevada nonprofit corporation, to transfer the property located at 1905 East 4th Street, Reno, Nevada, from Northern

Nevada HIV Outpatient Program, Education and Services to NNH QALICB (“Grantee”) in support of a health care facility to serve the Cares Campus and surrounding area; and (2) authorize the County Manager to execute the Consent to Real Property Transfer and any other required documents necessary for the property transfer. Community Services. (Commission District 3.)

- 23-0258**      **7C1** Recommendation to accept a FFY 2021 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant from the State of Nevada, Division of Emergency Management (NDEM) awarding [\$90,000.00, 25% County match required in the amount of \$22,500 to be provided by a combination of \$3,500.00 in-kind personnel match and \$19,000.00 from Regional Partners contribution.] The BRIC grant provides funding to assist states, local communities, tribes and territories as they undertake hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards. Grant term is retroactive from November 28, 2022, through November 27, 2025. If approved authorize the County Manager or his designee to sign the grant award documents when received; and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)
- 23-0259**      **7C2** Recommendation to approve FY23 Community Support grant awards to: 1. Silver State Fair Housing Council, a nonprofit corporation organized for charitable, religious, or educational purposes, in the amount of [\$20,000], to support fair housing for two years, 2023 and 2024, at [\$10,000] each year, 2. Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation, a nonprofit corporation organized for charitable, religious, or educational purposes to support Confluence, an artwork running along the pedestrian ways of Reno, in the amount of [\$10,000], 3. Gerlach General Improvement District, a governmental entity, in the amount of [\$10,000] to support the restoration of the historic Water Tower, 4. Artown, a nonprofit corporation organized for charitable, religious, or educational purposes, in the amount of [\$50,000], to support the month-long summer arts festival for two years, 2023 and 2024, at [\$25,000] each year; and approve Resolutions necessary for same; and direct Comptroller’s Office to make the appropriate budget appropriation transfers. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)
- 23-0260**      **7D1** Recommendation to approve and authorize Non-County Employee Travel and related training expenses [approximately \$10,100.00] using grant funding from the Nevada Division of Emergency Management awarded on September 1, 2022. The Non-County Employees would include bomb technicians of the Consolidated Bomb Squad from other participating law enforcement agencies to conduct necessary training. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

**23-0261**      **7D2** Recommendation to accept the FY 2023 Office of Traffic Safety award from the State of Nevada Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety [amount not to exceed \$21,525.00, 25% In-Kind County match required] administered through the State of Nevada Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety, to cover overtime costs for conducting speed enforcement to reduce accidents involving pedestrians in school zones, for the retroactive grant term of March 29, 2023 through September 30, 2023 and if approved, direct Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments and authorize Sheriff Balaam to execute grant award documents. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

On the call for public comment on the Consent Agenda Items listed above, Mr. Robert Beadles said the Commission worked for the public and requested an investigation. Chair Hill reminded him his comments needed to be related to the Consent Agenda items, to which he replied two Commissioners should not be allowed to vote on any agenda items.

Mr. Roger Edwards commented that there were only ten items in the Consent Agenda, and he felt the topic of public comment time was more important than the items in the Consent Agenda. He spoke of his time serving in the Vietnam War. Chair Hill requested that his comments pertain to the Consent Agenda items. When he did not comply, Chair Hill read from the forum restrictions on the agenda. Mr. Edwards said constituents could turn any agenda item into a public comment item.

Mr. Nicholas St. Jon stated he did not know how the funds for Agenda Item 7A1 would be applied. He read Agenda Item 7B1, indicating he felt the Board enjoyed spending money. He summarized some of the other Consent Agenda items and asked what action would be taken on Agenda Item 7B5 since no dollar amounts were listed. He continued to read the agenda items, prompting Chair Hill to remind him this was his opportunity to provide his opinion on the items.

Mr. Bruce Parks said the Consent Agenda was made up of about \$300,000 in funds, unlike other Consent Agendas which involved millions of dollars. He pointed out the public only received three minutes for Consent Agenda items, which he commented could be considered suppression of free speech. He voiced his approval of Agenda Items 7A1 through 7B4 and 7D1 while expressing opposition to Agenda Items 7B5 through 7C2. He thought the County put items into the Consent Agenda for which it did not want to hear public input.

Ms. Elise Weatherly expressed gratitude to whoever caught the mistakes in Agenda Item 7A1. She said things were all about money and the government should be run in a way that met the budget. Chair Hill reminded her that her comments needed to pertain to the Consent Agenda items. Ms. Weatherly asked why she needed to pay for her own mistakes. She thought the Board overspent, wondering whether Agenda Item 7B3 would be money well spent.

Regarding Agenda Item 7D1, Ms. Tracey Hilton-Thomas said the County had decimated travel allowances for County employees but was granting those privileges to non-County employees. She asked why the County bore the burden of other agencies. Chair Hill reminded her to keep her comments to the topic of the Consent Agenda items. Ms. Hilton-Thomas asked why taxpayers were paying for the travel of Nevada Division of Emergency Management employees. She felt a California resident should not run Technology Services (TS), and further suggested trainers should be brought to Washoe County as opposed to paying employees to receive training elsewhere.

Ms. Penny Brock thanked the members of the Board for allowing her to speak and indicated the public would bring petitions to them as long as they were allowed to do so. She asked how much taxpayers would end up paying for Agenda Item 7B5 and how much the property would cost to maintain. She wondered why more than \$78 million had been spent on 750 guests at the Cares Campus, saying she opposed the item.

Ms. Janet Butcher noted her comments were not made on behalf of any organization. She agreed with Ms. Hilton-Thomas' comments about Agenda Item 7D1. Regarding Agenda Item 7B5, she expressed concern about the growth of the Cares Campus. She expressed gratitude that the Great Reno Balloon Race was still in town, adding that the Reno Air Races left due to development in unincorporated areas. In reference to Agenda Item 7A1, she recalled having been charged for fixtures she did not have, and she would need to determine if she was ever credited for those. When she inquired about the library trustee position, Chair Hill replied that the item would be heard later in the agenda.

Ms. Val White brought up Agenda Item 7B5, saying the nonprofit companies who ran the Cares Campus received federal, State, County, and City funds. When Chair Hill asked her to ensure her comments related to the Consent Agenda, Ms. White asked whether the Assistant District Attorney (ADA) would do anything about the interruptions. She alleged Chair Hill benefitted from the County funding the Cares Campus. There was a discussion between Chair Hill and Ms. White about who comments were to be addressed to and the types of comments that could be made. Ms. White spoke about the censorship of public comments.

Ms. Renee Rezendes read Agenda Item 7A1 and wondered why the County, which could rectify mistakes in the taxes, could not do the same for the voter rolls. Chair Hill reminded Ms. Rezendes to ensure that her comments be pertinent to the Consent Agenda items. Ms. Rezendes hoped the voter rolls would be corrected. She expressed opposition to Agenda Item 7B5 but said she approved of Agenda Item 7A1.

Commissioner Clark commended the Treasurer on Agenda Item 7A1, saying it was refreshing when an elected official reviewed their department's records. He praised departments that performed constant audits, adding he wished the Registrar of Voters (ROV) would do the same.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 7A1 through 7D2 be approved. Any and all Resolutions pertinent to Consent Agenda Items 7A1 through 7D2 are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

Prompted by Commissioner Clark's query, Chair Hill confirmed that Consent Agenda items were not programmed on the tablets and a voice vote was taken.

### **BLOCK VOTE – 11, 13, AND 15**

**23-0262**      **AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommendation to approve amended allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) for the National Fitness Courts project in a total amount of \$499,568 (an increase of \$187,568 over the \$312,000 allocated and approved by the Board on October 11, 2022) and direct the Comptroller's Office to make necessary net zero cross-fund and cross-functional budget appropriation transfers. Under this project, two fitness courts will be installed at Washoe County parks - one at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park and one at South Valleys Regional Park. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

Public comment for each item in the Block Vote was heard together.

On the call for public comment, Mr. Robert Beadles quoted the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and said Chair Hill was breaking the Open Meeting Law (OML). Chair Hill requested that Mr. Beadles ensure his comments pertained to Agenda Items 11, 13, or 15. Mr. Beadles made comments about two Commissioners not being able to vote until investigations were held, to which Chair Hill repeated her request. Mr. Beadles stated Items 11 and 15 were not in the County's 2024 budget. He continued making comments about unrelated topics, and he and Chair Hill held a discussion about the nature of his comments. He expressed concern that \$1.6 million was paid to a consulting firm to get its opinion about Agenda Item 13.

Mr. Nicholas St. Jon asked about the nature of the fitness courts that were part of Agenda Item 11. Instead of spending that money on fitness courts, he suggested consideration be given to pickleball, a sport he played for years. Chair Hill asked him to keep his comments related to Agenda Items 11, 13, or 15. He reiterated his desire for pickleball courts, then brought up his First Amendment rights.

Regarding Agenda Item 11, Ms. Val White noted the funds would dry up at some point, and she felt the funds should be spent on things that impacted more of the community. She wondered who would pay to maintain the courts once the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds went away, asking whether there was a plan in place. Chair Hill reminded her to keep her comments related to the Block Vote items. Ms. White wondered what the plan was to maintain the programs originally funded by ARPA.

Regarding Agenda Item 13, she expressed support for members of law enforcement who were not woke. She thought issues such as drugs and weapons were not addressed through school employees, but there would be no need to involve law enforcement if school employees and principals enforced laws. She did not support putting additional law enforcement in schools.

Ms. Penny Brock stated she expected to get six minutes to speak as she requested to speak on two of the items. She spoke about her freedom of speech, to which Chair Hill reminded her that her comments needed to pertain to the Block Vote items. Ms. Brock expressed disappointment in Chair Hill. Regarding Agenda Item 11, she felt COVID-19 (C19) funding was inflationary and added to the national debt. She asked about the cost to maintain the fitness courts for the next 50 years, and what a national fitness court was. She wondered whether this expense would increase residents' property taxes, saying federal funds put the burden on local taxpayers. She asked the Board to oppose Agenda Item 11.

Ms. Katherine Snedigar said the codes did not apply to her because she was not a person. Chair Hill reminded her to make sure her comments related to Agenda Items 11, 13, or 15. Ms. Snedigar felt funds related to C19 were fraudulent and wasteful because C19 did not exist. Those funds, she declared, should go to businesses, and not be used for fitness courts. She expressed concern about how much she was taxed and opined there was no statute of limitations on fraud. She contended the Board had no authority to shut businesses down, to which Chair Hill repeated her reminder.

Ms. Sara Schmitz, a resident of Incline Village (IV), said she came to provide constructive public comment. Regarding Agenda Item 13, she conveyed the community's gratitude to the Duffield Foundation and Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) staff for protecting the community. She asked Chair Hill to reinstate the initial public comment section at the next meeting, to which Chair Hill requested that her comments pertain to the Block Vote items. Ms. Schmitz felt this was not a productive meeting.

Ms. Janet Butcher asked not to be bullied. She brought up the Library Board of Trustees, to which Chair Hill said that topic would be heard in a later item.

Ms. Deborah Sauk spoke about Agenda Item 11, saying the money was intended for C19 recovery. She wondered how fitness courts would help when the money was initially intended for hospitals, respirators, additional beds, and medications. She thought this was a waste of taxpayer money and that it should not be approved.

In reference to Agenda Item 13, Mr. Bruce Parks emphasized the importance of safeguarding schools from threats. He opined that the greatest threats came from within the schools. He felt officers were not compensated for what they did and were not given adequate resources to protect the community, though this item was a good step. He was happy the funds would bring more law enforcement resources to schools, saying he was confident they would not run from the sound of gunfire. He opposed gun-free school

zones and thought teachers should be armed; doing so would allow the County to allocate these resources elsewhere. He repeated his support for spending funds in this manner and lauded the Duffields.

Mr. Doug Flaherty stated he was speaking as an individual, not on behalf of his nonprofit organization. He expressed support for all monies that went toward the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD), the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District (NLTFPD), and the WCSO, comparing life without them to life in Ukraine. He asked to make a comment to the Assistant District Attorney (ADA) about the OML, to which Chair Hill asked him to ensure his comments were relevant to Agenda Items 11, 13, or 15. Mr. Flaherty expressed dissatisfaction with Chair Hill and the OML.

Mr. Roger Edwards said he was an 18-year retired contractor, and he expressed frustration with the cost involved in Agenda Item 11. He admitted he did not receive the background information the Commissioners received, and that ARPA money needed to be spent, but he claimed he could build a block of tennis courts for \$500,000.

Commissioner Clark expressed concern about Agenda Item 13, saying he believed there was a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between school police and the WCSO which gave school police primary jurisdiction for crimes committed on campus by or against students. The only exception was for Class A felonies. He asked whether WCSO deputies would be responsible for Class A felony crimes that occurred on the property. Chief Deputy Corey Solferino responded it was commonplace today that school police could not investigate certain Category A felonies, which the WCSO would then take on. School resource officers had the ability to intervene at a lower level before taking it to a criminal nexus, and the WCSO worked with the Jan Evans Juvenile Justice Center, particularly juvenile parole and probation, to mitigate those factors before introducing them into the criminal element. Both sides would need to read the MOU, which would be signed upon approval by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). He said nothing would be different if the grant was accepted versus how the WCSO currently did business.

Commissioner Clark asked how a school shooting or stabbing would be addressed by school police. Chief Deputy Solferino said that scenario was not encountered much in Washoe County, but the County needed to be prepared for it. He said teams were trained regionally and there was an active shooter response protocol, which he chose not to share for proprietary reasons. He confirmed the WCSO would run toward the sounds of violence to eliminate the threat. While he did not want to speak on behalf of school police, he noted they received numerous threats daily, which were investigated in concert with the local government. Depending on the jurisdiction, situations that rose to a Category A felony would be taken over by those corresponding agencies until conclusion.

Commissioner Clark inquired about where and when officers would be stationed at the school. Chief Deputy Solferino responded they would be embedded in the school. He remarked IV had its own substation because sending resources there from the Valley would take too much time, particularly with the record winter that just occurred. MOUs were in place, but Nevada Highway Patrol (NHP) was currently experiencing

recruiting issues, so its footprint in IV was minimal. In fact, the WCSO was handling accidents on Nevada State Routes (SR) 431 and 28 simply because State police did not have resources at the lake to deploy. He thanked the BCC for its support because the WCSO could not handle these types of responses and programs after years of not hiring additional personnel.

By having people embedded in the school district, Chief Deputy Solferino continued, one school police officer was responsible for three schools in IV. They relied on the support of the WCSO based on the mutual aid agreement. He pointed out the WCSO could not assist on lower-priority calls within the school district because it was handling calls for service which required its undivided attention. Two WCSO deputies would be embedded in the schools to help allocate resources to that school officer to ensure the safety of the children, which was what the community cared about most. Commissioner Clark agreed student safety was his primary concern.

Regarding Agenda Item 11, Vice Chair Herman said she believed infrastructure was not part of the ARPA funds. County Manager Eric Brown replied ARPA funds could be used for parks and recreation and open space types of investments in communities. The feedback received by the people from the Envision Washoe 2040 program, he continued, was clearly for the County to improve its open space and parks facilities. He noted the costs were being shared with Renown. Placing fitness courts in public spaces would enable people who could not afford gym memberships to have access to fitness equipment.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 11 be approved and directed.

**23-0263**      **AGENDA ITEM 13** Recommendation to accept the 2023-2028 Incline Village High School Resource Officer's Grant from Dave and Cheryl Duffield [amount not to exceed \$2,728,462.25, no match required] to be used to pay for two (2) full-time deputy sheriffs, associated operating expenses, equipment, and two (2) vehicles to be utilized by said deputy sheriffs, for the grant period of July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2028, with the possibility of a two to four year extension, and if approved direct Human Resources and authorize Sheriff Balaam to sign all awarded documents to create two (2) 1.0 FTE Deputy Sheriff positions, and direct Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (Commission District 1.)

Public comment for Agenda Items 11, 13, and 15 was held concurrently; see Agenda Item 11 for the public comment relevant to this item.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 13 be accepted, directed, and authorized.

**23-0264**      **AGENDA ITEM 15** Recommendation to approve the reimbursement of costs incurred by the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District and Washoe County, as listed in Table 1 of the staff report, for expenses related to and in support of the Enhanced 911 Emergency Response System and portable and vehicular event recording devices, as recommended by the 911 Emergency Response Advisory Committee on May 19, 2022, January 19, 2023, and March 16, 2023, in an amount not to exceed [\$728,782.22] as specified within the adopted Enhanced 911 Fund’s operating budget. Technology Services. (All Commission Districts.)

Public comment for Agenda Items 11, 13, and 15 was held concurrently; see Agenda Item 11 for the public comment relevant to this item.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 15 be approved.

**12:58 p.m.**      **The Board recessed.**

**1:33 p.m.**      **The Board reconvened with all Commissioners present.**

\* \* \* \* \*

Chair Hill stated that, during the meeting, there had been catcalls, insults, personal attacks, loud comments, and deliberate attempts at the podium to disrupt the meeting. As Chair, she had a responsibility to run the meeting and would do what she could to maintain order. She welcomed further participation during public comment.

\* \* \* \* \*

**23-0265**      **AGENDA ITEM 8** Recommendation to acknowledge the Washoe County Tahoe Transportation Plan as a document identifying actionable solutions that address unique mobility challenges faced by Washoe County residents, businesses, and visitors in the Lake Tahoe Region. The plan, created by Washoe County, supports the transportation element of the Washoe County Master Plan, Tahoe Area Plan. Community Services. (Commission District 1.)

Assistant County Manager (ACM) Dave Solaro conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Presentation Overview; Purpose of the Study; Listen to community concerns; Transportation Plan Goals; Summary of proposed improvements; Village Blvd. at Southwood and Northwood Blvds. (2 slides); Bus Stop Accessibility and Pedestrian Access (2 slides); Path Connectivity and Safety (2 slides); Parking Concerns; Regional Transit and Mobility; Thank You.

Mr. Solaro said the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) adopted the Tahoe Area Plan (TAP) in the spring of 2021. The TAP served as the master plan for development in the Incline Village/Crystal Bay (IVCB) area. Not identified in that plan were the transportation needs associated with an area plan update, so the BCC provided funds to hire a consultant to help create a transportation plan to meet the goals of the TAP. Staff wanted to incorporate the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), since it oversaw Nevada State Route (SR) 28, and Washoe County also wanted to address local roadways and parking areas that were within its rights of way. He stressed the need for walking and biking elements, even during the wintertime.

Mr. Solaro praised Parametrix, the consultant organization, for the work it did on public outreach. He noted the technical advisory committee included representation from the TRPA, NDOT, Washoe County engineering, and the Tahoe Transportation District (TTD), all of whom provided input. He acknowledged that, though the County had improvements ready to propose, some areas would require further study to address things like traffic counts. The examples he provided needed more research, but they were suggestions made by the community that seemed to be workable.

To address the problem of bus stop accessibility, Mr. Solaro continued, the County identified the locations of the highest ridership as possibilities where it could construct level bus areas. In addition, input was received from the IVCB community about which trails were the most important so those gaps in the trails could be connected. Identifying these allowed the County to seek out funding opportunities through federal and local agencies. He noted the County had just applied for a grant which would inset pedestrian crossings right into the roadway pavement, preventing the paint from being plowed away and needing frequent repainting; this would extend their life by up to ten years. Issues related to parking, such as members of the public parking anywhere they wanted during peak seasons, were discovered through the TAP process. He brought up the expansion of Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) vanpools in IVCB, of which there were now five in the area. Finally, he emphasized the importance Washoe County placed on maintaining pedestrian paths. Currently, the paths were prioritized below clearing main arterial routes and secondary routes and neighborhoods, but potential options to address this were also discovered during the process.

Chair Hill commended the multi-jurisdictional work required to put this report together, including the input received from more than 200 community members. She looked forward to finding the funding to invest in this.

Prompted by Commissioner Clark's queries, Mr. Solaro clarified the circles on the "Path Connectivity" slide identified areas where there was a lack of paths; they were priority areas that would eventually have footpaths. The existing trails permitted bicycles, scooters, and electric bikes, among others. He noted Washoe County adopted State law provisions related to the classes of electric bikes that could be used in parks. The County was working with many trail groups in the Tahoe area to understand the best way to accommodate electric bikes through the different jurisdictions so there would not be

enforcement issues. People speeding on electric bikes on Lakeshore Boulevard had been identified as a problem, so the County was educating places that rented those bicycles. Commissioner Clark expressed concern about the potential for electric bike accidents.

Commissioner Clark asked how speed limits would be enforced. Mr. Solaro said discussions with the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) about enforcement were ongoing, not only related to electric bikes but to all modes of transportation. The County had tried stenciling speed limits to gauge how people would respond to slow zones and congested areas, but Mr. Solaro had not yet reviewed that information. Commissioner Clark wondered whether the Legislature had determined a way to monetize electric bikes by registering them.

On the call for public comment, Mr. Robert Beadles wondered what was meant by the TAP being acknowledged, noting there were no costs listed in the presentation. He also pointed out more than 200 residents' input was sought but the sentiment of that outreach was not provided. He wished to know how residents prioritized walking paths versus additional parking lots. He expressed concern about applying for a grant for something that was not needed. If it was to be paid instead from the budget, he went on, the potential financial impact should have been provided. He spoke about raises given to the ACMs, saying he thought that money should be used to fund schools and wider roads.

Mr. Nicholas St. Jon wondered what the Founding Fathers would have thought about funding welfare and other government programs. He expressed concern about the money that was spent on the Cares Campus. While having walking and biking paths was good, he admitted, he did not think a lot of thought went into planning them. He wondered why the County was trying to solve these problems when the addition of so many types of transportation, such as electric bikes, scooters, skateboards, and one-wheels, complicated everything. He spoke about a discussion to widen ditches in rural Kansas. He opposed the County spending money on this project.

Ms. Diane Becker said she was the chair of the IVCB Citizen Advisory Board (CAB), though she was not speaking on its behalf. She thanked Washoe County for funding the study, adding she hoped it would fund traffic signage, intersection improvement, signal improvement, and winter maintenance. She thanked Amy Cummings of Parametrix for listening to resident feedback. She indicated CAB members and members of the public both requested empirical traffic data for the community. Given that there were more than 60 million annual visitors to Lake Tahoe, traffic often backed up from King's Beach to Incline Village (IV). She wanted the County to consider the objections of local residents before making the proposed Mobility Hub a part of the traffic study; she stated most of the community was opposed to the Mobility Hub. She expressed concern that one location the County expected to place buses at was currently the intersection with the most traffic accidents. She spoke about the dangers of the bike path between Crystal Bay (CB) and IV.

Ms. Helen Neff spoke about being hit by a vehicle while at a crosswalk in IV. While recovering, she reached out to Chair Hill, who told her about a goal to secure funding for the study. She felt the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists was still at risk, as the crash rate on SR 28 was above average and had only gotten worse since 2019. She thought programs like the Vision Zero Network would only become a reality when safety was prioritized in road engineering and enforcement. She reviewed the major concerns she had during the process: leading pedestrian intervals at signalized intersections, a reduced speed limit on SR 28 within IV, and intersection improvements to calm traffic at specific intersections. The improvements were scheduled within a decade, but she hoped they could be accelerated.

Ms. Sara Schmitz said safety was the top priority for community members and she wanted the issues addressed quickly. She thought the community was not supportive of expanding multi-use trails due to other issues that had not been solved, such as trash and restrooms. The East Shore Trail was originally sold as one that would reduce vehicle miles traveled, but she believed it did the opposite as it increased vehicular tourist traffic. She said nobody had reached out to the Incline Village General Improvement District's (IVGID) human resources (HR) department to determine its employees' transportation needs. She thought reducing the number of employee cars traveling over the hills would benefit the safety and environment of employees and employers alike. She contended many employees in the basin worked odd or short shifts. Incorporating the needs of the employers would help reduce the number of cars coming into the basin.

Mr. Doug Flaherty provided a document, copies of which were distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. He said there were a lot of good things about the plan, but he felt it and the linked transportation plans failed to analyze the cumulative safety and environmental impacts on the IVCB area. He thought Washoe County and the TRPA produced acknowledgment plans to justify area and regional plan code changes, which could lead to unsafe human and roadway overcapacity and challenges during fire or winter evacuations. He said cumulative impacts resulted from minor but significant actions over a period of time. Additionally, any code changes supporting excess re-dwelling units would cause significant, adverse environmental and safety impacts in the region. He wanted a data-driven environmental impact statement that analyzed local and regional impacts since the 2012 TRPA regional plan. He pointed out an error on page 10 of the document, which he thought cast doubt on the creators of the plan.

Ms. Janet Butcher said her comments were her own and not on behalf of any organization. She stated she lived in an unincorporated area. She hoped the Board would listen to the IVCB citizens and let them know when meetings were scheduled. She did not want to see Lake Tahoe ruined.

Ms. Penny Brock considered Lake Tahoe to be a diamond in the Sierras and expressed concern that it would be turned into a tourist capital, ruining the beauty of the area. She wanted the lake preserved for future generations, which would not happen by bringing in hubs. She wondered what the addition of buses would do to the traffic at the lake. She felt the project was pushed by a developer just to get grant money, which was

unacceptable. She was worried they were planning this project without knowing its cost or where they would get the money to fund it. She hoped the Commissioners would determine these things before taxpayer funds were spent on the project.

Ms. Elise Weatherly wondered about the return on investment (ROI) for this project, noting she did not often see many people riding buses. She expressed distrust of Sun Valley CAB members, at which point Chair Hill reminded her to keep her comments pertinent to this item. Ms. Weatherly thought roundabouts should be illegal and inquired about the cost to prepare the report for this item. She wanted money spent on things that made sense.

Ms. Katherine Snedigar claimed there was no guarantee the County would even spend funds on this project, citing the reissuance of a \$20 million bond in 2019. Chair Hill asked Ms. Snedigar to keep her comments related to Agenda Item 8. Ms. Snedigar thought the transportation plan was a bad idea and brought up a roundabout on Seventh Street. She did not agree to let her taxpayer funds be used for this project.

Ms. Val White commented that the bigger picture needed to be considered in anything related to transportation. She pointed out that the County had regional transportation commissions which guided transportation policy and planning. Those commissions were powerful and were comprised of elected and appointed officials, and she felt they had an agenda. She alleged small changes approved by commissions made progress toward a bigger plan. She negatively compared a recent trip to Tahoe to ones she took in 1972, saying transportation was partially responsible for traffic and uncleanness. She did not understand how the bike path was meant to reduce traffic as it drew people to the area. She cautioned people to review who was on those transportation commissions.

Ms. Renee Rezendes mentioned she drove through Washoe County to get to the lake and asked who was responsible for inspecting roads, particularly with regard to painted lines. She thought roundabouts only worked in areas without a lot of traffic, referencing some difficulty in navigating the intersection by Scheels. She asked for legislation to require driver's education for all individuals applying for new licenses. Chair Hill said that could be brought up during the legislative update item. Ms. Rezendes remarked that Chair Hill did not want to listen to public comments.

County Clerk Jan Galassini advised the Board she received emails, which she placed on the record.

Commissioner Clark thanked the citizens who traveled to Chambers for this item, specifically Ms. Schmitz, who he felt should be consulted on all topics that impacted IV. He noted none of the Commissioners lived at the lake, but she did.

Chair Hill stated more was needed on this plan, such as engineering reports, but she hoped some of the projects could be expedited depending on the status of grant funding.

On motion by Chair Hill, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 8 be acknowledged.

**23-0266**      **AGENDA ITEM 9** Recommendation and possible action to approve the settlement between Allergan, CVS and the State of Nevada in the opioid litigation (State of Nevada v. McKesson Corp. et al., Case No. A-19-796755-B (Nev. Dist. Ct., Clark County) and execution by Washoe County of the “Allergan Settlement Participation Agreement” and the “CVS Settlement Participation Agreement” and releases pursuant to the One Nevada Agreement on Allocation of Opioid Recoveries ("One Nevada Agreement") previously agreed upon for participation in settlements (entered into on July 27, 2021).

The proposed settlement between Allergan and the State of Nevada is in the amount of \$26,508,913.00 and will be paid in equal installments over seven years beginning in 2023. Pursuant to the One Nevada Agreement, Washoe County will receive an estimated total net allocation of \$1,187,393.62 (\$193,763.90 per year minus \$24,136.24 in attorneys’ fees for seven years).

The proposed settlement with CVS and the State of Nevada is in the amount of \$151,858,772.26 and will be paid in equal installments over 10 years beginning in 2023. Attorneys’ fees and costs were resolved directly with outside counsel and will not be deducted from this settlement. Pursuant to the One Nevada Agreement, Washoe County will receive an estimated net allocation of \$7,380,909.94 (\$738,090.99 per year for 10 years) District Attorney. (All Commission Districts.)

Deputy District Attorney (DDA) Lindsay Liddell stated this was a continuation of the ongoing opioid litigation. She reminded the Board that it approved a settlement with Walmart in February, and this item involved proposed settlements with Consumer Value Stores (CVS) and the drug manufacturer Allergan.

Commissioner Clark asked whether the funds from this settlement would go into the General Fund or if they could be used for drug education or rehabilitation programs. DDA Liddell said the funds would be earmarked for opioid abatement in the community, though the specific uses for the funds were not part of this action item; that would be heard in a future item. Chair Hill pointed out the Board had previously adopted a bigger plan for that.

Chair Hill praised the work of the District Attorney's (DA) Office, adding she was excited to see the good work this money could fund.

On the call for public comment, Mr. Robert Beadles requested more information about how many people in this settlement were injured or had died, the spending plan that was referenced earlier, and how much of the settlement money would go directly to the families and the people harmed.

Ms. Valerie Fiannaca stated her fourth son died of an overdose. She believed all of this money should be spent on helping addicts get well, including those on the streets and those in the Cares Campus, as well as on law enforcement. She felt some individuals would not want to get well unless they were incarcerated, where their minds would clear. She cautioned against spending any of this money on housing.

Mr. Nicholas St. Jon expressed concern about prior Boards making decisions that would impact future Board members, such as the decision about how to spend these funds. He agreed the best place to spend this money was helping victims. He felt his comments over the past 28 months had been ignored or silenced.

Mr. Bruce Parks echoed Ms. Fiannaca's sentiment about how to spend the money. He stated all economic classes were impacted by this epidemic, but for most people, it took someone close to home being impacted to appreciate the severity of it. He sympathized with chemical dependency problems, and while many of those instances were caused by poor life choices, here pharmaceutical companies pushed these drugs, and they should be held accountable. It was this Board's responsibility to spend the money wisely, and he felt all funds should go directly to the victims. He expressed frustration about the Cares Campus and voiced concern that future Boards might use these funds for different purposes than were being earmarked now. He wanted proper measures to be put in place to ensure the funds went solely to victims.

Ms. Penny Brock expressed concern about the One Nevada Agreement's ties to the United Nations (UN) and the Globalist. She concurred that the funds should be earmarked for the victims and not go into the General Fund. She wanted to know how the Board would protect the money so other Boards could not use it for pet projects. She felt none of the funds should go to the Cares Campus since there were other people at home who were also impacted. She said some of the victims were children, grandparents, and veterans, and she wanted the Board to consider this item carefully.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Vice Chair Herman, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 9 be approved.

**23-0267**      **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation to appoint one candidate from a pool of applicants including: Kim Barghouti, Paula L. Berkley, Reva Crump, Andrew R. Flagg, Gianna M. Jacks, Valeria T. Koss, Sara Marcus, Virginia A. Nolte, Patricia McCarthy Olmstead, Janice Porter-Moffitt, William R. Puchert, Krystal J-M Pyatt, Albert D. Rogers, Linda K. Schmitt, Ann D. Silver, Katy Simon Holland, Brad M. Stanley, Geraldine F. Taylor, CJ J. Walters, Paul D. White, Thomas C. Willadsen, and Nicole Williams, to fill one midterm vacancy on the Washoe County Library Board of Trustees pursuant to NRS 379.020(3) beginning on May 1, 2023, and ending on June 30, 2024. Library. (All Commission Districts.)

Commissioner Garcia disclosed that her sister, Melissa Garcia, was employed by the Washoe County Library (WCL) system. She sought guidance from the District Attorney's (DA) Office, and she explained there was no need to recuse herself from the vote as there were several layers of management between her sister's library position and the Library Board of Trustees. She indicated she would vote on this matter.

Library Director Jeff Scott wished everyone a happy Library Week and a happy Library Worker Day. The WCL was looking to fill this position, which had remained vacant since Trustee Jean Stoess resigned in June 2022 due to health reasons. He noted she was the first woman appointed to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) in 1977, so it was exciting for her to sit on the Library Board. He looked forward to having a full board.

Chair Hill asked about a future vacancy that was expected on the Library Board. Mr. Scott replied Trustee Amy Ghilieri's term was set to expire on June 30, so he would return to the BCC to consider the candidates at that time. He confirmed Ms. Ghilieri could also be reappointed to the position.

Commissioner Clark brought up Mr. Scott's time in Berkeley, to which Mr. Scott replied he was not dismissed from that position.

On the call for public comment, Mr. Robert Beadles stated at least two people on the list were not given notice of this item until 5:00 p.m. the prior evening. He believed Chair Hill and Commissioner Garcia should recuse themselves from this vote and both should be investigated. He opined the two most viable candidates were Mr. Paul White and Ms. Reva Crump, adding he had hired thousands of people in his life. He felt all the Commissioners should listen to Commissioner Clark and Vice Chair Herman since they owned businesses. He urged the Board to pick one of the two candidates he recommended.

Ms. Jana McMillan, the branch manager of the Spanish Springs Library, said she had worked for the WCL for 23 years. The Library Board presented a great opportunity, and she was excited to see how many people applied for it. Having reviewed all the applications, she felt Ms. Katy Simon Holland would be fabulous on the board. She thought Ms. Simon Holland was the type of person to reach across the aisle, listen to taxpayers and employees alike, and find solutions. She praised Ms. Simon Holland's work as the County Manager and listed her long history on local boards, as well as some of her accolades. She said Ms. Simon Holland grasped the role of libraries in communities as non-judgmental spaces that offered free access to information. In addition, as County Manager, Ms. Simon Holland helped build and renovate libraries. Ms. McMillan thought Ms. Simon Holland would help the WCL continue to be a dynamic, enriching resource.

Ms. Jamie Hemingway stated she had worked for the WCL for more than 20 years, during which she witnessed many of the Library Board's accomplishments. After reviewing all the applications, she agreed Ms. Simon Holland was the best candidate given her vast experience working with local nonprofit organizations and the Washoe County School District (WCSD). She thought Ms. Simon Holland had more she could accomplish for the Library Board of Trustees.

Ms. Debi Stears, Collection Development Manager for the WCL, voiced her support for Ms. Simon Holland. She believed Ms. Simon Holland's resume stood out with her commitment to community service and her experience working with the entire spectrum of the community. She appreciated the work that went into selecting a new candidate, and she was heartened to see how many applicants hoped to ensure the entire community was served with quality library service.

Ms. Janet Butcher said she knew of three applicants who were not notified of this item until 5:00 p.m. the prior day. She wondered whether a trustee was already selected and whether Mr. Scott was involved in the selection process. She expressed concern about the content that children were being exposed to at libraries, saying people were not allowed to read from the Bible but drag queens were allowed to be story time readers. She believed drag queen story hour (DQSH) was bad for the innocence of children.

Ms. Nichelle Hull alleged Chair Hill's prior admonitions for misbehaving were suppression of the people, and she planned to inform Chair Hill's precinct. She thought the BCC needed to protect children by pushing out Mr. Scott or changing the Library Board. She brought up Mr. Scott's history with the Berkeley Library system, saying he purged 39,000 books and reduced the staff to two employees. She referenced a link on the WCL's website to a video narrated by an African American drag queen and a picture of a float that Ms. Hull claimed used pedophilia colors. She called for the dismissal of Mr. Scott.

Ms. Valerie Fiannaca supported Ms. Crump and Mr. White for the position, pointing out the latter was a lifelong educator. She claimed Ms. Simon Holland lied in her application that the WCSD was in the top 20 percent of school districts, describing the source that was cited as fake news. She said she did not want a politician on the Library Board. She read a letter from another citizen who wanted an appointee who would protect children. The letter went on to tell of a woman who preferred male activities but was never told to think she was a boy. The letter criticized DQSH, and the author volunteered to read stories to children.

Mr. Nicholas St. Jon felt the large number of applications spoke to the importance of having quality people on the Library Board. He hoped the BCC would consider all the applicants, adding he felt the Library Board needed someone who would question the decisions made by Mr. Scott. He thought DQSH was not in the best interest of children. Whoever was appointed to the board, he continued, should not rubber stamp and agree with everything the Board did. He wanted balance on the Library Board.

Mr. Bruce Parks said the public was told during a Library Board item at a prior meeting that the BCC did not have input on the programming for the WCL, yet it selected the trustees, which he felt influenced programming. He thought any current trustees who were not acting in the best interest of the majority of Washoe County residents should be removed by the BCC. He spoke about one candidate, who he did not name, and some controversy he felt she created in her capacity with the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN). He expressed appreciation that the BCC would

not give weight to any appointment recommendations Mr. Scott might make. He believed most of the people who attended a recent Library Board meeting wanted Mr. Scott to resign. He expressed support for Mr. White and Ms. Crump.

Mr. Cliff Nellis provided a document, copies of which were provided to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. He spoke about a prior meeting where the majority of attendees called on Mr. Scott to resign because of DQSH. He contested Mr. Scott's earlier assertion that he quit his prior position, citing newspaper articles and a moveon.org petition. He questioned the vetting process the County underwent when hiring Mr. Scott, claiming the Library Director previously fired 36 librarians and purged 360 shopping carts full of books so they could never be used anywhere else.

Mr. Alan Munson urged the Board to consider Mr. White, who he said had 30 years of experience as an educator, or Ms. Crump. He stated he had attended Library Board meetings and was ignored. He spoke against DQSH, saying he believed children should not be taught about sexuality because, as they grew up, they would choose things that were not good for them. He felt that Mr. Scott did not listen to him or the other constituents who wanted an end to DQSH. He wanted the appointee to have sense.

Ms. Val White expressed curiosity about how the finalists were chosen, inquiring whether the Commissioners helped refine the list or if it was a decision of the Library Director. She said Ms. Simon Holland was on the school board for three years and the WCSD was 50th out of 50 in academic achievement during that time. Ms. Simon Holland brought in the sex education program, which Ms. White did not condone. Ms. White brought up the source material for Ms. Simon Holland's claims about the ranking of the school district, saying that, while it was based on student achievement, it focused on how race impacted achievement. She felt Washoe County was friendly to racial excuses for poor achievement. She believed drag queens did not teach about inclusivity but about sexual deviancy, and she questioned parents who supported DQSH.

Mr. Keith Lockard spoke in support of Ms. Simon Holland. Having read each of the applications, he felt Ms. Simon Holland had an outstanding record of service to Washoe County, a deep understanding of community needs, and leadership. He highlighted some of her positions and achievements, adding that her application provided additional information about her community service. Over the decade in which he served the Library Board, it received voter approval for two ballot measures for library funding and implemented a master plan for branch improvements. He pointed out that former Library Director Nancy Cummings-Schmidt wrote a letter in support of Ms. Simon Holland as well. He said his comments were his own, but he cared about good government and a library system that provided a diversity of services to enrich the lives of County citizens. He closed by saying Ms. Simon Holland had a remarkable career in Washoe County.

Ms. Tracey Hilton-Thomas recommended Ms. Crump or Mr. White as the appointee as they had proven experience working with children. She felt someone on the board needed to be an advocate for young patrons. She stated she had worked with Ms. Simon Holland and Mr. Rogers, the latter of which she felt would be a better fit for a

manager position that might become available. She praised Ms. Simon Holland's decision to cut budgets by 10 percent, saying the County needed to quit wasting taxpayer money.

Ms. Penny Brock expressed concern about what was happening to children in libraries, adding America as a constitutional republic would cease to exist without Judeo-Christian values. She believed DQSH did not fit with those values, saying homosexuality was a sin. She said she supported Ms. Crump or Mr. Bruce Parks to be appointed to the board, additionally requesting that the BCC replace the Library Director so a Judeo-Christian library system could be built.

Ms. Sandee Tibbett displayed a document, copies of which were placed on file with the Clerk. She praised Vice Chair Herman and Commissioner Clark for standing up for the rights of the people and upholding their oaths. She claimed certain Commissioners had colluded with the Library Director to cherry-pick the ultimate candidate, which was why at least three applicants did not receive notice of this item until late the day before. She brought up other noticing issues experienced by residents and Commissioners. She requested that this item be continued to allow those who did not receive notification to be present. She demanded investigations into the County Manager and two Commissioners and expressed frustration about the Library Director's retweet of a Sesame Street tweet about the LGBTQIA+ community.

Ms. Tara Tran stated the existence of drag queens in public spaces was not what plagued children. She remarked trans people were four times more likely to be murdered than cisgender individuals, and the murder of trans women had doubled over the past four years. She spoke about the increase in legislation controlling trans people. She did not believe dressing up in flamboyant outfits and makeup constituted violent behavior. She said white Judeo-Christian beliefs were dying and the youth embraced more diverse identities. She said many people who said they wanted to protect the youth went after young people.

Mr. Andrew R. Flagg said he was an applicant and spoke about his upbringing in Oregon and the military. He noted he had volunteered to work in libraries throughout his youth, as well as working in Bill Gates' library. He brought up some of the achievements that occurred when he worked in Winnemucca's library system. He felt libraries were for everyone, not just children. He described himself as professional, pragmatic, and open to concerns of a sensitive nature. He reviewed some of the boards and commissions on which he sat, saying he was versed in the decision-making process. He noted he volunteered for years for the WCL and was a Friend of the Washoe County Library. Since he had trouble submitting all his materials online, he suggested tabling this item if the BCC needed more information from any of the applicants.

Mr. Al Rogers said he was an applicant for the Library Board. He expressed gratitude for the boards and commissions process held by the BCC and other jurisdictions in the State. Citizen boards were important to him, and he had worked with many boards and commissions throughout his 43 years in the area. He described currently sitting on the Washoe County Regional Animal Services (WCRAS) Advisory Board as rewarding. He

agreed the online submission portal was challenging. He said he taught at Bishop Manogue Catholic High School before working in public service with the City of Reno and Washoe County. He expressed pride in his early team-building experiences at Bishop Manogue.

Ms. Darla Lee stated that, while the Board made the ultimate decision, it would have been nice for the public to hear from every candidate. She spoke about attending school board meetings with Ms. Simon Holland and disagreed with the people who recommended her for the position. She thought Ms. Simon Holland's votes were always cast on one side of the spectrum. She expressed her support for Ms. Crump and Mr. White, who she felt would provide balance to the Library Board, and she echoed calls for the Library Director's resignation. Because some people were not given enough notice, she suggested tabling this item and reconsidering the applicants.

Ms. Gianna Jacks, an applicant for the position, encouraged the Board to vote for her. She brought a letter of recommendation and said she would not repeat the details that were captured in her resume. She commented that trustees needed to be residents of Washoe County and not be elected officials, and they needed to be aware of the library's role in the community. She confirmed she was available to make the monthly scheduled meetings. She reviewed other tasks of the Library Board, such as appointing the Director, evaluating performance, and approving policies, all of which she felt she could help with while being an advocate in the community. She recommended the Board appoint her, adding she had three children, and the library should be a community center for learning.

Mr. Tom Green was shocked that Mr. Rogers, a mainstay with the County, needed to make a public comment to be considered for the position. He read a letter from Ms. Simon Holland to Sparks Councilmember Charlene Bybee in which she spoke negatively about candidates for school board positions. In the letter, Ms. Simon Holland said EDAWN was not allowed to openly advocate for any candidate, but board members not speaking for EDAWN could. Mr. Green believed one Commissioner sat on the EDAWN board and another acted as a backup. He felt they should not be able to consider voting on Ms. Simon Holland due to her service on EDAWN, an organization funded by the County. He suggested voting for Ms. Ann Silver or Ms. Jacks, anyone but Ms. Simon Holland.

Ms. Renee Rezendes indicated the Library Board did not have one conservative on it. She said she did not care about titles, only that people were willing to look after families, which she believed the current Library Board did not do. She spoke about a video where Bruce Jenner was apologetic about his public transition and said he opposed DQSH. She thought the members of the Board should enlighten themselves about people who regretted transitioning, adding that rainbows were given to man by God and perverted by other groups. She expressed support for Ms. Crump, Mr. White, and Ms. Jacks.

Ms. Katherine Snedigar spoke in opposition to Ms. Simon Holland because she continued to seek positions on many boards. She spoke about going to school with Ms. Simon Holland, opining that she did not know about the law and sewed hate. Ms. Snedigar spoke about the Board members' fiduciary responsibility to the people who elected them and child endangerment laws. She told a story about wanting to be a boy when she was younger because she wanted to wear pants. She supported Ms. Jacks, saying she would appeal to children.

County Clerk Jan Galassini advised the Board she received emails, which she placed on the record.

Commissioner Andriola asked for someone to address comments that were made about noticing issues. Program Assistant Alexandra Wilson said applicants were notified the day before. There were no current guidelines about noticing, though that was being worked on. Noticing was done to let people know they could listen in and participate during public comment. She confirmed applicants were notified via email around 5:00 p.m. Spurred by the Commissioner's clarifying questions, she explained applicants were encouraged to either come in person to provide public comment or listen via YouTube to see who was selected. This item was not intended to be an interview process. Emails to the Commissioners encouraged them to review all the applicants and speak to staff to make arrangements if any potential interviews were needed.

Commissioner Andriola inquired about who was working on the guidelines referenced earlier, to which Ms. Wilson replied it was being considered by the boards and committees subcommittee, established as part of the strategic plan; it was comprised of members of the libraries, Technology Services (TS), the Clerk's Office, and the Office of the County Manager (OCM), among others. They hoped to have the guidelines by the beginning of June. She wanted staff to be trained and all information to be included before it went live. Commissioner Andriola expressed concern that this was not much time, noting that each of the applicants did not have an equal opportunity with proper notice. She wished to see proper procedures with appropriate time frames in place. She suggested that all applicants be notified at the same time the agenda was made public as a professional courtesy. She said she was uncomfortable moving forward due to the limited notice, though she praised the applicants who expressed interest.

Commissioner Clark acknowledged Mr. Lockard, who worked with the WCL system for years, and Ms. Jacks. He spoke about the hiring process at the Assessor's Office, saying he was all about treating everyone fairly. He said that did not happen because certain people did not get the chance to speak. He praised Ms. Wilson's work in putting together a matrix, saying the noticing was not her fault if she did not receive guidance from the BCC. He felt all applicants should have the chance to make a presentation in a transparent way, and a decision would be made at that point; everyone should have been given the same opportunity as Ms. Jacks.

Ms. Wilson said meetings or interviews could be set up individually. Regarding this vacancy specifically, it had been pushed back several times and many of the applicants had applied back in October. She understood the comments about noticing that were given by the Board.

Vice Chair Herman agreed with the Commissioners, asking whether this item could be considered at the next meeting to give all applicants a chance to come. Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Nate Edwards confirmed they could continue this item if it was the will of the Board. Commissioner Clark asked whether a special meeting could be held just for interviews, to which ADA Edwards said it could, though he suggested discussing that with the Chair. Today, the Board could vote to continue this item.

Commissioner Andriola commended staff for the process, especially knowing some applicants first came forward in October. She recognized this was difficult and expressed gratitude for the matrix that was provided.

On motion by Commissioner Andriola, seconded by Vice Chair Herman, which motion duly carried on a 4-1 vote with Chair Hill voting no, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be continued with consideration given to having a separate meeting for the applicants to come.

**23-0268**      **AGENDA ITEM 12** Recommendation to approve 1) a contract with the Elections Group for an operational review of the 2022 election processes and staffing and make recommendations to the County Manager to improve the operational effectiveness and accuracy of the Washoe County election process; effective upon execution through December 31, 2023 (extensions may be allowable under certain circumstances) and; 2) if approved, approve the use of General Fund Contingency in the amount of \$100,000 needed to support Phase I of the Elections Group contract in accordance with Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 354.598005 and; 3) if approved, direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget appropriation transfers and to authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the agreement. [Total Fiscal Impact \$600,000; Fiscal Years 2023 of approximately \$100,000 for Phase I and up to a maximum of \$500,000 for Fiscal Year 2024 for Phase II.] Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

Commissioner Clark indicated this item had come before the Board several times. He read an email from Ned Jones, Deputy Director of the Election Integrity Network, which agreed with his objection to the contract with the Elections Group, claiming the group's goal was to influence election processes. If the group was not good enough for the state of Virginia, which he said severed ties with the group, it was not good enough for Washoe County. He stated County Manager Eric Brown picked this company through a subcommittee comprised of his employees who had just received pay raises, and he felt companies from out of town should not be hired to fix problems that could be solved internally. He thought hiring this company gave Manager Brown immunity if things were

not fixed since he could then deflect any criticism. He suggested the Board not sign with or vouch for the company just because Manager Brown chose it.

On the call for public comment, Mr. Robert Beadles quoted Washoe County regulations, saying this item was brought forward illegally. He noted Vice Chair Herman and Commissioner Clark had already voted against this. He felt this could be handled internally instead of hiring a company from out of State. He expressed dissatisfaction with the previous Registrars of Voters (ROV), saying good people who were applying for the jobs were not getting them, though no reasons why were ever given. He expressed concern about the reputation of the Elections Group and the various other entities it had been connected with. He claimed he had video footage of the prior ROV admitting they broke the law, and he did not want to employ the service of an outside company with a poor reputation. He wanted competence, not corruption, and felt that Chair Hill and Commissioner Garcia should not be able to vote going forward.

Mr. Roger Edwards was not present when called to speak.

Ms. Pam Darr felt the Elections Group seemed very partisan, having spoken to her brother in Virginia about the group's situation there. She said she watched prior meetings where the Board decided to spend more than \$300,000 instead of fixing problems and agreed with a suggestion she had heard for the candidates to review ballots before they went out to the public. She recommended having a workshop to fix some of the issues rather than spending money on them. She observed that many were upset at the removal of a public comment item, wondering whether the Elections Group would also ignore the concerns of the people. She expressed love for the town and said she wanted to be able to say they had great people representing them.

Ms. Renee Rezendes provided a document, copies of which were distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. She spoke about Volunteer Nevada, a group investigating things in Clark County. She stated the County did not need an elections group and that it should use local people who were involved with the elections, Republicans, Democrats, and Independents. This panel could bring their experiences and work together. Instead, she felt the Secretary of State (SOS) and the Commissioners were not interested in that. She thought it would be helpful to be included.

Mr. David Chamberlain was not present when called to speak.

Mr. Donald Fossum displayed documents that were placed on file with the Clerk. He believed the Board would do the right thing. He said the people were involved in election integrity every day, praising Mr. Beadles for the work he had done in that area. He did not like the resume of the Chicago-based group and felt the people could do a better job.

Mr. Nicholas St. Jon referred to an audit that had been closed without a vote by the review board or the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). That audit revealed systemic problems, which led to the review board, but he felt the right third-party group to

oversee this should be a Citizen Advisory Board (CAB). He commented that Mr. Beadles filed many affidavits that had been ignored. This item had been voted on in the past, he noted, saying the decision would come down to Commissioner Andriola, who he hoped would vote against putting the Elections Group in place. Instead, he suggested forming a CAB with himself, Mr. Beadles, poll workers, and observers. He talked about 300 challenges, most of which he alleged were thrown away. He said Commissioner Clark and Vice Chair Herman were not notified when the Elections Group arrived, adding there were more Democrats than Republicans on the list to be interviewed. He wanted free and fair elections.

Mr. Bruce Parks, Chairman of the Washoe County Republican Party, stated he was not certain how this item appeared on the agenda for the April 11 meeting. He understood the item could not be reopened unless a member who voted for the defeated motion asked for reconsideration. He believed it could not be reheard since the original motion failed according to Robert's Rules of Order and the BCC's parliamentary authority. He indicated he and others did proactive research to make sure elections were transparent, but he felt that was not the case. He had suggested sending cards to everyone on the voter rolls to fill out and return to remain on the rolls. He said that would not constitute voter suppression because same-day registration existed. He encouraged the BCC to vote no on this item.

Mr. Cliff Nellis said he was an election observer, alleging that fraud was committed when signatures were not checked. He suggested setting up overhead cameras and broadcasting to the community. He felt paper ballots would simplify everything. He expressed frustration that the observation area overlooked people sorting ballots, which he did not feel was meaningful; he would prefer to be able to observe signature verification and adjudication. He opined observers should be allowed to wander around as long as they did not interfere. He thought there should be 100 locations that each received about 3,000 ballots, which he calculated could be counted in five hours by both Democrats and Republicans. Even if it took ten hours, it would be better than a week. Each precinct would then call in the results, which he felt would restore confidence in the election system. He wanted the ROV to be a Republican.

Ms. Rosie Zuckerman, Mr. Scott Johnston, and Mr. Wesley Griffin were not present when called to speak.

Ms. Penny Brock displayed Exhibit A, the statement of work, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. She felt the contract involved with this item was one of the worst she had seen. She thought the list of what the group planned to do did not tell people much of anything. She saw nothing about cleaning voter rolls, protecting registration data, observing the counting of ballots, cybersecurity, or voter identification (ID) for mail-in ballots. She claimed the group had been working since January, saying she did not think the Manager had the authority to approve that based on the size of the contract. She could not determine what the Elections Group would do as part of its Phase II, but it would take until December 31. She wondered why the Elections Group would need County records, positing that it might sell that information.

Ms. Janet Butcher said she was not representing an organization. She thought three Commissioners were poised to turn over County elections to a left-wing entity, and possibly turn the ROV to the southside group. She questioned the intentions of the group, entreating the BCC to vote no. She questioned why Washoe County turned to outside vendors to perform in the election process, including using outside agencies to hire poll workers and print ballots. She thought the ROV should be able to identify and address any shortfalls in the process, and the Manager should be able to assist. She brought up Chris Piper of the Elections Group and possible ties to the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), which she described as a nefarious organization.

Ms. Betty Thiessen read from Ms. Rezentos' document that was previously provided in which there were questions about why County election officials were not the ones to maintain improvements and about staff's capability. She read about the Elections Group's duties in both Phases I and II, wondering why County election officials were not developing and implementing efficient elections. Based on her time canvassing and poll watching, she felt the County employed the wrong people to do the job. She did not think an outside firm should become involved, and she asked the BCC to vote no.

Ms. Darla Lee objected to spending \$100,000 and \$500,000 on an outside group, which she believed was biased. She did not know what the Elections Group would be tasked to do, and she pondered why a director was not hired who could improve elections through better efficiency. She believed any outside audit should be vetted by the entire BCC and not suggested by the County Manager. The ROV needed reform, she said, but it could be done using local individuals.

Mr. Doug Flaherty spoke about being raised by a leathermaker and his time spent volunteering for the Reno Rodeo. He said the freedom of the United States (U.S.) depended on the ability to vote fairly.

Mr. Bruce Foster expressed frustration that he had to wait so long to speak on this item, saying it should not have been brought up again. He stated those who counted the votes decided everything. He said he got involved in 2020 as a poll watcher, and changes to voting procedures implemented by the former Governor in response to COVID-19 (C19) had resulted in havoc. He said boxes of affidavits were given to a judge, but nothing happened. He read from an article alleging connections between the Elections Group, the Georgia election, the Arizona audit, and far-left nonprofit organizations.

Ms. Susan Vaness displayed an image on her phone. She expressed gratitude at being allowed to speak. She spoke about a discussion from the April 11 meeting and how the Elections Group was being considered because there was a shortage of local elections experts. She said it would be unconstitutional for the federal government to take over state elections, and the recommendation for the Elections Group came from a public-private partnership between the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and a Zuckerberg/Rockefeller/Soros Communist cartel. She claimed the Elections Group was under investigation for committing fraud in numerous elections. She wanted to know who gave Manager Brown the recommendation.

Ms. Tracey Hilton-Thomas said there was no harm in getting an outside perspective about the errors of the ROV, but she did not feel people without a vested interest in the community should implement anything. She spoke about the implementation of System Analysis Program Development (SAP) into County processes in 2003, saying an implementation team was formed by staff. She felt the elections situation could be handled the same way. She thought a new ROV would be needed before anyone would commit to the task. She did not think the turnover of ROV staff was due to external threats made to employees but internal threats. She expressed concern about the credentials of the current ROV and suggested erecting a glass wall along the hallway of the processing center for transparency. She said the Manager did not value the input of election employees.

Ms. Debbie Hudgens noted there were broken systems and several of the speakers had found the issues, but they still were not being addressed. She said the courts would not consider the evidence and relayed a friend's observation that garbage bags of unmarked ballots were brought in. She wanted someone competent to run the ROV Office. She did not believe the Elections Group would have the answers and it would not make County voters feel better. She said the people did not think they were being heard in Chambers, though she thanked Commissioner Clark and Vice Chair Herman for listening. She asked that the Board not approve the Elections Group and instead get people in the ROV Office to do the job.

Mr. James M. Benthin displayed a document, copies of which were distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. He opposed the contract as it would waste \$600,000 in taxpayer funds. He spoke about the history of the Election Integrity Project's lawsuit against California's election process, which was based on two things: the different processes between mail-in and in-person voting, and the diminished value of in-person voters based on new regulations. He thought Nevadans could solve the problems without the need for an outside group. He provided a list of potential changes that he wished to be considered, including complete voter validation, ballot tabulation, and getting results at the precinct level.

Ms. Valerie Fiannaca thought the root of corruption came from the top, not from the ROV. She did not understand how this item was being heard for a third time. She added she did not trust elections, just like many others according to a recent Rasmussen poll. She agreed with the comments made by Mr. Foster and Ms. Hilton-Thomas.

Mr. J.S. McElhinney expressed concern that the fee needed to fly out and house an external group could be much higher. He opined there were many intelligent, local people, and there was no reason to hire an outside group with questionable integrity.

Ms. Katherine Snedigar stated the meeting would have been shorter had there been a public comment section at the beginning of it. Chair Hill asked Ms. Snedigar to keep her comments pertinent to Agenda Item 12. Ms. Snedigar said past volunteers were rejected due to insurance concerns, but she felt the cost to maintain that insurance would be less than \$600,000. She believed Manager Brown selected this group because of

kickbacks. She said the BCC did not represent the people, and she felt the money that could be spent on this group should go to businesses that were closed during C19.

Ms. Val White remarked elections were comprised of four parts: voter registration, voter validation, tabulation, and reporting. She felt ERIC, which was hired to clean voter rolls, was a biased organization. She thought it was a mistake that some counties gave sole responsibility for voter registration to ERIC, which as a nonprofit organization was not subject to public information requests. She said same-day registration did not allow enough time to confirm the accuracy of the information given, and citizenship was not being verified with the Department of Motor Vehicles' (DMV) registrations. She questioned voter validation training, saying identification was not required, and she opined the process for mail-in-voting validation was inadequate. She agreed that an overhead camera could work. She said precincts needed to be brought back, referencing a video that showed how a universal serial bus (USB) cable could flip votes in a tabulator. She said she did not know whether the results given to television stations by the company Scytl were accurate.

County Clerk Jan Galassini advised the Board she received emails, which she would place on the record.

Commissioner Andriola asked for confirmation that this item was legally on the agenda. Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Nate Edwards replied yes. He explained there was a tie vote on March 28, and a 4 to 1 vote on April 11 to approve the initial \$100,000 portion of the contract. At the April 18 meeting, Vice Chair Herman asked for it to be continued, so it was being heard at this meeting. In response to earlier comments about Robert's Rules of Order, ADA Edwards acknowledged the Board had a reference to Robert's Rules in its rules of procedure, but that was suggestive only and subject to State law. The County's rules contained a provision that any Commissioner could request reconsideration in a tie-vote scenario, explaining how the item was brought back after the March 28 tie. However, Robert's Rules were trumped by Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 244.060, which said items in a tie vote were required to come back. In summary, this item was legally on the agenda for a vote. He noted the overarching questions about the process were illustrative of the democratic process; the public was able to provide its input by design, and now the Board had the opportunity to decide whether it wanted to approve it.

Commissioner Andriola inquired about the County Manager's spending authority, to which County Manager Eric Brown replied he had a spending authority of \$300,000. He confirmed he was within his authority to approve the initial \$100,000, but he would need additional authority to approve the second phase of the contract. The item was clear in saying staff would need to come back to the Board for that approval. Commissioner Andriola asked about provisions or language in the contract which indicated the Elections Group would be on site with staff during the actual elections. Manager Brown said there was no such language.

In response to Commissioner Andriola's query about Phase I transparency, Manager Brown said the Elections Group would come back with a final report, which would go to the County Manager for review. Per the BCC's discussion at the previous meeting, it could then go to the audit committee to review and comment, at which point it would be placed on a BCC agenda. The process was still up to the BCC.

Commissioner Clark spoke about receiving a lot of communication after his primary election in June 2022. He believed there was a hostile work environment in the ROV Office with a massive amount of turnover. He said prior employees came to him with whistleblower complaints, and the root of the problem was having a Registrar who had not run an election elsewhere. Bringing in an outside organization would not fix the issues.

Commissioner Andriola asked how the group was selected. Manager Brown said he reached out to three organizations, the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), the National Association of Counties (NACo), and the Nevada Secretary of State's (SOS) Office, to inquire about companies that did this sort of work. Two candidates emerged and the County interviewed them. Commissioner Andriola wondered about the SOS's basis for its recommendation, to which Manager Brown responded he believed the recommendation did not come from the SOS, but rather from the ICMA. The other group that the panel interviewed, which was based out of Clark County, was recommended by the SOS and NACo. He clarified he asked solely for suggestions of organizations the County could interview, not recommendations. Commissioner Andriola asked about Nevada-based organizations that could provide some assurance that they understood local compliance requirements. Manager Brown said the group had a Nevada resident who was about to come on board as a principal, but he would not start until April. The firm operated primarily remotely, and its principal was in Sacramento.

Commissioner Andriola asked about the possibility of implementing changes directly based on the recommendations in the Phase I report without having to move forward with Phase II. Manager Brown replied Phase I focused on best operational practices, not political or policy practices. Once that was complete, it was up to the County to decide. He said the County relied heavily on County employees and volunteers, and that would not change with the Elections Group. Commissioner Andriola summarized that the Phase I results could recommend many new implementations based on what was best for Washoe County. She asked about adding a provision that would require the formation of a group to solicit feedback. Manager Brown expected to move forward with public workshops to explore specific topics such as poll worker training and ballot development and accuracy.

Commissioner Garcia moved to approve the item, which was seconded by Chair Hill.

Commissioner Andriola noted it was only her third meeting and it was interesting to gather as much information as possible. Since the ROV previously mentioned that staffing was an issue, Commissioner Andriola said she would prefer spending

\$100,000 and make decisions based on the recommendations, then use the remaining \$500,000 to help with staffing and training. She was not sure whether that opportunity existed with this agenda item, but she ultimately wanted funds to be used in the best way possible to ensure election integrity. It was important that all ballots cast actually reflected the decisions of the voter. She felt it was uncertain how that might tie into Commissioner Garcia's motion.

In speaking with ROV Jamie Rodriguez, Commissioner Andriola noted, it became clear that there were many regulatory requirements that went beyond any elections group. She agreed some things could benefit from independent oversight. She supported continuing Phase I as long as there was the ability for the \$500,000 to be used to help with staffing so there could be more local and Statewide involvement, noting the SOS also had the opportunity to provide guidance regarding oversight. Manager Brown confirmed the County could, and further, that it could review the Phase I report from a compliance standpoint. He also confirmed Commissioner Andriola's assertion that Phase I would include staffing opportunities for the ROV Office.

ADA Edwards clarified the item being reconsidered was the Board's approval of the \$100,000 contract, not Manager Brown's decisions. The Board had voted to approve the \$100,000 portion during the April 11 meeting, and that was what was being considered in this item. Commissioner Andriola hoped her discussion would provide direction for the second phase.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Chair Hill, which motion duly carried on a 3-2 vote with Vice Chair Herman and Commissioner Clark voting no, it was ordered that Agenda Item 12 be approved, directed, and authorized.

**23-0269**      **AGENDA ITEM 14** Possible action to adopt the Business Impact Statement for the 911 Telephone Line Surcharge increase with a finding, based on staff's recommendation, that the proposed surcharge increase will not impose a direct and significant economic burden on a business; nor will it directly restrict the formation, operation or expansion of a business. As proposed, the 911 Telephone Line Surcharge would be increased by \$0.15 to \$1.00 per month for each customer access line to the local exchange of a telecommunications provider, increased by \$0.15 to \$1.00 per month for each telephone number assigned to a customer of mobile telephone service, and increased by \$1.50 to \$10.00 per month for each customer trunk line to the local exchange of a telecommunications provider. Technology Services. (All Commission Districts.)

IT Manager Quinn Korbolic offered to go over his in-depth presentation, just provide highlights, or forgo the presentation. Commissioner Clark asked how this would impact low-income workers and people struggling with the economy. Mr. Korbolic said the surcharge would be spread across all telephone users equally. The crux of this item dealt more with how it would impact businesses. Anyone with a phone would see their rate increase by \$0.15 per month or \$1.80 per year.

**5:37 p.m.**      **Assistant District Attorney Nate Edwards left the meeting.**

On the call for public comment, Ms. Betty Thiessen said she was against any tax increase while the economy was bad, and she asked the Board to vote no.

Ms. Penny Brock felt that, while 911 might need more funds, low-income and senior citizen taxpayers did as well. She recommended taking some of the money spent on the Cares Campus and spending it here instead if there was a need.

**5:40 p.m.**      **Commissioner Andriola left the meeting.**

**5:41 p.m.**      **Commissioner Clark left the meeting.**

Ms. Janet Butcher said she was not speaking on behalf of any organization. She said the increase from \$0.15 to \$1.00 was a large increase, more than her Social Security increase. She could understand an increase of \$0.15 to \$0.30, but not this high of an increase.

Mr. Robert Beadles was not present when called to speak.

Vice Chair Herman clarified it would be an increase of \$0.15, not an increase from \$0.15 to \$1.00, a point that was confirmed by Mr. Korbolic. Mr. Korbolic explained that was the maximum the surcharge could ever be increased, so this would be the top. The total revenue from this surcharge was around \$5.8 million per year and, if this item were approved, it would increase to around \$6.8 million. In response to the Vice Chair's clarifying questions, Mr. Korbolic said the fee would increase by \$0.15 per phone, so someone with two phones would see a \$0.30 increase. The increase would come to \$1.80 per year.

Vice Chair Herman inquired about the need for the money. Mr. Korbolic said this had to do with the regionalization of the 911 system. Staff was working on a number of projects, such as upgrading the computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system, which impacted all agencies that used emergency services, not just Washoe County. This was expected to improve 911 response and services. Vice Chair Herman indicated there would be value as a result of the increase.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Vice Chair Herman, which motion duly carried on a 3-0 vote with Commissioners Clark and Andriola absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 14 be adopted.

**23-0270**      **AGENDA ITEM 16** Discussion and direction to staff regarding legislation or legislative issues proposed by legislators, by Washoe County, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, or by other entities permitted by the Nevada State Legislature to submit bill draft requests, or such legislative issues as may be deemed by the Chair or the Board to be of critical significance to Washoe County. Possible actions under this item may

include the Board taking official positions on SB 68. Pending legislative bills can be located here: <<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/82nd2023>>. Current bills the County is tracking that may be reported on or discussed are listed under Government Affairs at [www.washoecounty.gov](http://www.washoecounty.gov) <<http://www.washoecounty.gov>>. Due to time constraints inherent in the legislative process, a list of specific bills that staff will seek direction from the Commission on during this item will be posted on the web site under Government Affairs at [www.washoecounty.gov](http://www.washoecounty.gov) <<http://www.washoecounty.gov>> by 6:00 p.m. the Friday before the meeting. Due to the rapid pace of the legislative session, additional bills upon which comment may be sought from the Board of County Commissioners will be posted as soon as known. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

**5:45 p.m. Commissioner Andriola and Assistant District Attorney Nate Edwards returned to the meeting.**

Government Affairs Liaison Cadence Matijevich said that day was the deadline for first house passage, so all bills not declared exempt from the deadlines would need to be passed out of their house of origin. Both the Senate and the Assembly had held long floor sessions.

**5:47 p.m. Commissioner Clark returned to the meeting.**

Ms. Matijevich asked whether the Board wanted updates on all the bills it had already taken a position on, or whether she should begin with Senate Bill (SB) 68. Chair Hill opted for the latter option. Ms. Matijevich said SB68 went through many iterations during the legislative session, and she received a new version of the bill earlier that day. This new version would dedicate \$0.15 of the \$1.30 per \$500 valuation of the real property transfer tax, all of which typically went to the State General Fund, to the newly established Critical Needs Fund. This would result in an estimated \$13.92 million annually. Of those funds, the State would allocate either \$400,000 or one-fifth, whichever was less, to each of its five behavioral health regions. The balance would be distributed to each region based on population. The fund would be administered by the Nevada Housing Division, a division of the State Department of Business and Industry (B&I), based on determinations made by each region's respective behavioral policy board.

Ms. Matijevich said the funds could be used for rental assistance or home repair assistance to help individuals obtain or retain very low-income housing. Each region's funds would be distributed to the housing authority that served that behavioral health region. Households with the lowest income or those in supportive housing would be prioritized. The second purpose, she continued, would be to provide grants for rental assistance, supportive housing projects, and funding for the acquisition and rehabilitation of properties suitable for supportive housing. For these grants, there would need to be a maximum 15-year commitment and performance reviews.

Ms. Matijevich pointed out there was some uncertainty about whether the \$0.15 would come from the portion of the real property tax received by the County. She confirmed that it would come from the State General Fund, and there was less of a concern about direct impacts on the County's budget. Staff saw this as a good thing in terms of the Board's strategic plan, which prioritized these kinds of housing projects. She admitted it was currently unknown from where in the State's General Fund the \$13.92 million would come, especially if it would need to divert funds that went to existing County programs.

Chair Hill felt the bill had improved substantially, and the only concern was a possible reduction of State support to County programs. She was unsure whether Ms. Matijevich could testify in support of the bill with the caveat that the County still needed the State's support on programs. Ms. Matijevich responded it would depend on the testimony in the hearing. The bill had been referred to the Senate Finance Committee because there were fiscal implications for the State. She said those discussions would help her determine whether there was a risk of funds being diverted. If it was the Board's direction, she believed she could express the County's support unless there would be harm to existing County programs.

Commissioner Garcia asked who would oversee the Critical Needs Fund, to which Ms. Matijevich replied the funding would be administered by the Nevada Housing Division based on recommendations that came from the five regional public behavioral health boards in the State. Rental assistance would be distributed to the housing authorities for each region, though since there were more regions than housing authorities, some housing authorities handled more than one regional public behavioral health board.

Chair Hill expressed support as long as there would be no reduction in State-supported County services.

On the call for public comment, Mr. Robert Beadles was called but opted not to speak.

Mr. Bruce Parks believed all money received from the State came with strings attached. He felt the money would not come from grants but ultimately from his pockets. He urged the Board to vote no on any funding from the State, saying the County could stand on its own. He wished the State would tell the federal government the same thing. He believed Nevada and Washoe County were not for sale.

Ms. Val White stated these monies would eventually end up in the hands of nonprofit organizations, which she contended fed each other. She opined the money would mostly go to the homeless industrial complex, and she compared it to funding for Ukraine that was unaccountable. She felt nonprofit organizations spent a little bit of the money on what they were supposed to, but the rest went to Democrat candidates or other left-wing organizations. She encouraged the public to research where these organizations spent money.

Mr. Mark Neumann brought up a prior comment by Vice Chair Herman about additional fees paid by Sun Valley residents for flood control. Chair Hill explained Mr. Neumann could address that topic later in the general public comment section.

Ms. Renee Rezendes raised concerns about the incorporation of general funds, saying she did not know where the money would go or where it came from. She asked the Board to vote no because there was no transparency, and she did not agree with more government in Nevada. She said the public was tired of more taxes. She requested that the backup material posted online be provided for bills that were to be discussed.

On motion by Chair Hill, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, which motion duly carried on a 3-2 vote with Vice Chair Herman and Commissioner Clark voting no, it was ordered that the County support Senate Bill 68 as long as there would be no reduction of State support for other County services.

Chair Hill requested that the Board touch base with Ms. Matijevich the following week about the remainder of her report, which would be posted online. Ms. Matijevich agreed and then, addressing a prior query from Commissioner Clark, noted that no bills had been introduced regarding licensing electric bicycles.

**23-0271**      **AGENDA ITEM 17** Public Comment.

Mr. Robert Beadles requested that Commissioner Garcia step down and be investigated by the District Attorney's (DA) Office based on inconsistencies with the residences she listed in her candidate filing paperwork. He cited evidence that she did not currently live in the apartment in her district, rather she resided with former Reno Councilmember Oscar Delgado, who also did not live in her district. He contested that nobody had ever seen her at the apartment while many had seen her near Mr. Delgado. He felt she should not have been able to vote on any agenda items. He renewed his objection to Chair Hill, citing her failure to disclose sitting on the investment board for the Cares Campus, which he felt was a conflict of interest. He said the law prohibited public officials from engaging in conflicts of interest, self-dealing, or misapplying interested funds. He called for an investigation into Chair Hill's husband for potentially sharing information related to County business with the Chair.

Mr. Terry Brooks said he had a lot to say about homelessness, explaining that he had lived in Boone County, Missouri, and Washoe County, Nevada. He noticed many homeless people in the area, and he hoped they were able to find somewhere to stay. He expressed empathy for them, wondering whether anyone else cared about them and if they had enough to eat. He thanked the County for providing shelter to them, especially during cold nights, and that churches and communities had come together for the cause. He wanted to figure out how to address the situation, beginning with identifying the problem. He planned to return to a meeting to read another poem about his opinions.

Mr. Wesley Griffin and Ms. Nichelle Hull were not present when called to speak.

Mr. Nicholas St. Jon expressed frustration about one of Commissioner Andriola's prior votes, saying her stand could be detrimental with the public. He said members of the public wanted to be heard, indicating the First Amendment gave them the right to a redress of grievances. He could not recall one time when a Commissioner contacted him to try to come to a resolution. He had frequently requested town halls where Commissioners could meet with constituents, as speaking for three minutes during public comment in Board of County Commissioners' (BCC) meetings resulted in them being ignored. He mentioned hearing nothing about prior demands to remove metal detectors to get into Chambers and a resolution to make the County a Second Amendment sanctuary county. He said citizens brought valuable information to the Board and they should be heard, and they would return at the next meeting if the Board made the same choice.

Ms. Janet Butcher displayed a document, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. She said she was not related to any organization. Speaking about the Elections Group, she said she did not see a distinction between Phase I and Phase II, though she acknowledged the Assistant District Attorney (ADA) might understand the contract better. She stated she did not care about the United States (U.S.) Library Board's opinion on drag queen story hour (DQSH). She said she did not care if people were drag queens or homosexuals, but children were impressionable. She felt DQSH put children in danger and nobody who believed it was okay should be on the Library Board of Trustees. She wondered why drag queens wanted an audience with children.

Mr. Bruce Parks indicated he belonged to many organizations and had his finger on the pulse of the community. He wanted to know why it took so long to appoint someone to the vacated Library Board seat since it became vacant in July 2022, adding it might have been to allow more or specific individuals to submit their applications. He believed the Library Director had an integrity problem. He thanked ADA Nate Edwards for his clarification about items being rescheduled on future agendas. He said Chair Hill previously warned both members of the public and other Commissioners to stay on topic with their comments, yet she allowed one speaker during the Library Board item to speak off-topic without being redressed. He thought this was a double standard, and he hoped to see the initial public comment section return in the future.

Ms. Katherine Snedigar provided a document, copies of which were distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. The document was the Clearfield Doctrine, which she stated allowed the public to sue government entities that acted as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) if harm was caused. She said businesses that had been closed down could sue for the damages caused by the decision to shut the County down. She stated Commissioners could be sued privately. She brought up the case of *Owen v. City of Independence*, saying she was good at educating the people about their rights. She did not believe the Board could claim qualified immunity.

Mr. Carl Copek displayed documents, copies of which were placed on file with the Clerk. He spoke representing his neighbors in Gerlach, saying they were veterans and hard-working taxpayers who organized one of the largest festivals in the Country. He said many came to speak their mind with decorum, and he expressed appreciation for the

Board's decision. Since the meeting, he did a lot of research into Nevada water law and Nevada meeting law. He had expressed concern to County Engineer Timber Weiss that a lowering of the water table, similar to what happened in Lemmon and Golden Valleys, could happen to Gerlach if 11 wells were drilled between Gerlach Spring and the town. He was told the aquifer belonged to Gerlach, and Ormat Technologies had no right to drill into it. He felt it would be on the Board if the situation was revoked and Gerlach lost its water.

Ms. Valerie Fiannaca thanked ADA Edwards for responding to an email she sent, giving her direction about open driving under the influence (DUI) investigations. She brought up a case involving County Manager Brown's wife, saying the case was adjudicated in Sparks Municipal Court but booked at the Washoe County Jail. She said there were questions, though the BCC could not investigate it, about who facilitated the booking, who she was released to, and why she did not receive a DUI. Ms. Fiannaca expressed concerns about the judicial system and said she planned to continue following the story. She asked when members of the Library Board would receive their own email addresses, saying she believed the Library Director screened their emails.

Ms. Tracey Hilton-Thomas suggested the County change its website and its rules for procedure to reflect the change made to public comment. She stated the motion for Agenda Item 12 would result in \$500,000 going to the Elections Group, not toward staff salaries. She expressed concern about the early voting location in the atrium of the County Administrative Complex, which she felt was not secure due to there being four points of entry. She thought the polling location should be moved to the conference room in Building C. She discussed her twenty years of election volunteering history, noting she worked under three different ROVs. She declared elections were not complicated unless something was being hidden.

Ms. Debbie Hudgens was not present when called to speak.

Mr. Stewart Handte said he lived in Washoe County for 48 years, adding that he had been a cop. He expressed frustration about having to appear four times to report corruption. He spoke about judges' behavior toward him and his co-defendant Roger Hillygus, who he believed was dying in jail. He anticipated getting the Department of Justice (DOJ) involved because nobody else was doing anything about it. He said the DA's Office, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO), and the courts were destroying both his life and Mr. Hillygus'. He vowed not to leave the State until justice was served. He said he served his profession with dignity, honor, and respect, yet he was vilified by those three entities and the media.

Mr. Al Rogers thanked the Board for the opportunity and for the information that was provided. He apologized for being unable to complete his prior comments, but he was taken aback by someone being verbally attacked in Chambers. He looked forward to the next opportunity to talk about whatever role might present itself, and he understood the Board's and Commissioner Andriola's prerogative to continue the item, recognizing it could be overwhelming for new Commissioners. He advised anyone applying for a board or commission to take personal responsibility; it was the duty of the applicant to determine

the next steps in the process. He commented on a complete lack of decorum, which he said he had not seen during his experience in Chambers. He brought up the mission of the Board, which he helped craft, that was intended for all Commissions moving forward.

Ms. Pam Darr pointed out one public commenter had stayed for hours just to speak on a topic that had been heard the prior month. Some people, she noted, could speak for three minutes and then leave, but having the public comment period at the end of the meeting could be difficult for people. She thought it would have been a better environment if the public comment period was at the beginning of the meeting. Regarding the County Manager's authorization to approve items involving funds up to \$300,000, she thought the two approvals together totaled over \$300,000. She suggested this item should have gone to the BCC for approval first. She felt the total amount of money, combined with the fact that it was about elections, caused issues. She said it was great to get to know the applicants for the Library Board, but she thought the Library Board was not on the same page as the community, particularly in terms of DQSH. Parents were shocked by what children were bringing home.

Ms. Penny Brock read from the Elections Group contract, saying on-site services would be performed at the ROV Office, and remote services would be performed at a location at the vendor's discretion. She indicated the Elections Group had already been performing work on-site, so she was unsure why that was not disclosed. She said the contract was in two parts, one for \$100,000 and one for \$500,000, but it was not broken up. She said she researched Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS), which stated a representative of a board could approve something up to \$100,000, but anything above that would need to be approved by the body before the people. She pointed out a contract was binding, and the group would be on site. She claimed the \$600,000 would need to be paid by December 31 despite being told that the \$500,000 would not be paid until 2024. She said Open Meeting Law (OML) was for the public benefit and should be liberally construed to promote the openness of government. She did not feel the Board understood that.

Ms. Betty Thiessen remarked she felt the Commissioners' emails were being screened because she sent an email to all the Commissioners and Vice Chair Herman did not receive it. Ms. Thiessen read the email, originally from Nevada Liberty, which requested an investigation into the County Manager due to covering up a drunk driving incident involving his wife. The letter referenced a whistleblower who attested to the coverup, which involved several public servants and officials. She read that Ms. Brown received different treatment than others with similar charges, raising questions about the fairness of the legal system. She believed a full investigation would help shed light on potential wrongdoing.

Mr. Doug Flaherty said the District 1 representative was on the board of the Tahoe Prosperity Center (TPC), adding she gave \$30,000 to that NGO using a blank invoice. Additionally, he said she was the chair of the Tahoe Transportation District (TTD), and the Board earlier voted on a transportation plan. He wanted the County Manager's authority taken away, and he expressed disappointment in a vote made by the District 4 Commissioner. He brought up small leading groups, which he said ran the Tahoe Regional

Planning Agency (TRPA), comparing it to Communist Chinese doctrine. He encouraged the public to research it.

Ms. Renee Rezendes said she held out hope for Commissioner Andriola, who she praised for asking many questions, but who ultimately voted in concert with the left-leaning perspective. Ms. Rezendes thought the Commissioner's position on the Reno Rodeo board was a fluff position, but the BCC was a more serious board. She said the Elections Group and the County Manager were not to be trusted, and she thought Commissioner Andriola should vote no if there was any doubt. She stated Commissioner Garcia should recuse herself from items about the Library Board, citing prior allegations of her not living in her district. Chair Hill reminded Ms. Rezendes to address her comments to the Board as a whole. Ms. Rezendes thought the BCC was comprised of yes people who were not fair with their votes and not contributing to the community. She cautioned Chair Hill about being an activist.

Ms. Susan Vaness brought up a discrepancy in answers given during the April 11 meeting and ones given during this meeting. She said the Elections Group contract showed that the group would be present and that some of the money would not go to workers. She said the elected officials sided with the people, but those Commissioners who were selected voted together; she was unsure about the appointed Commissioner. She said the people's vote was important. She thought Manager Brown needed to be investigated, and she expressed disappointment that Chair Hill did not speak out when County citizens were called a "parade of horrors." She wanted the Board to understand the contract before voting on it and remember who it was serving.

Mr. Mark Neumann displayed a document, copies of which were placed on file with the Clerk. Pointing to a map, he showed water flows in Spanish Springs and where work had been performed. Because of the way water flowed into Sparks, he said, Sun Valley residents were charged \$97 every quarter for something that did not even affect them. He hoped the Board would look into that. Regarding the Pyramid Highway project, he showed an area where the road would be reduced from six lanes to four, resulting in bottlenecks in both directions. Since it would not be addressed for years after the initial phase, he thought the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) needed to investigate the issue. He expressed concern that computer models were dictating the project and not people with lived experience, particularly if it resulted in things needing to be redone and a waste of taxpayer money.

Mr. Aaron Beadles commented that issues with the Country were because people moved away from Jesus. He said he prayed for the Board every day, saying some of them needed deliverance. He said God would prevail and asked the Holy Spirit to fill everyone in the room.

Ms. Val White remarked the Carson City Mint tried to mint coins in the early 1800s but had to close down due to corruption; City and County officials stole the precious metals needed to make the coins. She thought there was still a chain of corruption. She asked about several pictures she had seen of Commissioner Andriola with Democrats,

noting she did not see any pictures of her with Republicans. She expressed disappointment. She brought up educationcrusade.org, operationsunlight.org, and nevadaliberty.org, which she said were all uncovering corruption. She felt the Elections Group would work to cover up any fraud and wrongdoing. She spoke about a member of a nonprofit organization who was offering food and drink on the voting line, which was permitted by the ROV as long as the person was not saying anything. She wondered what he might have been telling people.

County Clerk Jan Galassini advised the Board she received emails, which she placed on the record.

**23-0272      AGENDA ITEM 18 Announcements/Reports.**

Commissioner Clark said the meeting was full of information and serious allegations, and he felt those allegations should be reviewed. Regarding Library Director Jeff Scott's prior history with Berkeley, he said his biggest concern was that books in the Washoe County Library (WCL) system were not being purged or destroyed. He encouraged any whistleblowers who worked with the County to bring forward any possible information about that.

Vice Chair Herman said Mr. Stewart Handte and Mr. Roger Hillygus had appeared at several meetings, and she felt they had not been treated fairly. She wished something could have been done before it got to this point. She expressed regret about some of the things she had not been able to get done, and she hoped to start doing good in the near future. She thanked the public for informing the Board of what was wrong, saying they were trying to save the County.

Chair Hill thanked everyone for their time.

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**7:05 p.m.** There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

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**ALEXIS HILL**, Chair  
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

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

*Minutes Prepared by:  
Derek Sonderfan, Independent Contractor*