



Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board held on December 15 2022, 6 p.m. at the Gerlach Community Center, 410 Cottonwood, Gerlach, NV 89412, and via teleconference.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM – Elisabeth 'Schatzi' Gambrell, Andy Moore, Tina Walter, Brandy Wilbur (alternate), Kristy Evans (zoom). Absent: Allen Nash, Russell Bierle (alternate)

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The pledge was recited

3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT –

Melissa Adams spoke about lights up Gerlach with voting on decorated houses with awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS OF OCTOBER 20, 2022, and NOVEMBER 17, 2022 (for possible action)

MOTION: Ms. Gambrell moved to approve the minutes of October 20, 2022, and November 17, 2022. Mr. Moore seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

5. WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE – General Community Update (non-action item)

Deputy Burns provided a brief update. Ms. Gambrell inquired about 24/7 protection for Gerlach. He said he hadn't heard anything. He said we have a new Lieutenant. Lieutenant Banks got moved. Sgt. Diaz is still the Sargent. He will get the name of the new Lieutenant.

6. PAIUTE TRIBE FIRE CHIEF – Don Pelt, Fire Chief of the Paiute Tribe Fire Department, General Community Update (non-action item)

Jonathan Prichard Acting Chief as Chief Pelt is on vacation. Nothing new to report. We had our grand reopening last week. We had 25 people who attended. It snowed, which kept the numbers low. We talked about having something in the Spring for the anniversary of taking over Gerlach. Gerlach crews handled 4-5 calls for service. Everyone is happy with the level of service. Ms. Gambrell said she picked up some of the forms for the insurance that Chief Pelt talked about for the Ambulance Saver Program. She requested a class to meet with someone who is knowledgeable about the program. Mr. Prichard said we could do that in the new year.

7. ANIMAL ADOPTION IN RURAL WASHOE COUNTY – Learn how those living in rural areas surrounding Gerlach and Empire will be able to adopt animals and contribute to animal welfare in Washoe County. (non-action item)

Ms. Ramos provided a brief update on animal services. Ms. Gambrell said our taxes pay for the Washoe County Humane Society. She said two people tried to adopt animals but were turned down, stating they lived too far away for them to come to do a house check. She said she wants to find out if we are paying taxes for a service we don't get. Ms. Ramos said she would follow up. Ms. Gambrell said we had a senior service day and were told they would come up and do a chipping program for her pets. We want to know where we stand.

8. DIGITAL EQUITY IN RURAL WASHOE COUNTY - Behzad Zamanian, Chief Information Officer, Washoe County. [Non-Action Item]

Mr. Zamanian provided a PowerPoint slideshow. In response to Ms. Gambrell's question, Mr. Zamanian said Poito would cover Gerlach. It will be delivered by June 2023.

Ms. Gambrell requested his address to send the location of the dead spots and a copy of the PowerPoint slideshow. Ms. Ramos noted it would be posted on the website.

Ms. Gambrell asked, with this digital connectivity, does that have to do with TV service. Mr. Zamanian said he can reach out to the companies to see what the issue is and what can be done. The County has little control. We could be a partner. This project is more for connectivity and digital equity. Mr. Zamanian said StarLink provides satellite services. Ms. Gambrell said it's a low-income community. It's a news desert out here. It's a blackout zone for news or alerts. She said she would work with GID about this.

Alyssa asked about the fiber price range. Mr. Zamanian said we got the funding from State, had the vendor built the infrastructure, and were supposed to provide reasonable rates. He said it would be about \$50-60.

Ms. Evans thanked Mr. Zamanian for this presentation. It's great news to run it to the houses for services. She wanted to raise awareness regarding running service to a new subdivision. She spoke about homes north on 34 and 447 outside the Gerlach boundary. Satellite is their only option. I don't know if there is enough of a rebate as the installation fee is expensive. Those are areas for equity that need to be addressed. Mr. Zamanian said there is a proposal to connect Gerlach to the radio site with fiber. If the State covers the cost, it might become a reality. Mr. Zamanian said he could provide additional information with a map to address Ms. Gambrell's question about the service connectivity going north.

Jonathan Prichard said the cell services you are trying to get at Gerlach are on the list. He said it's a challenge on 447 between Nixon and Gerlach and beyond. He said he switched to FirstNet which has better service. Mr. Zamanian said he would look into it and would bring it back. He said two radio sites are included in the RFP but will bring the info back. He addressed Mr. Prichard's question about the P25 project service expansion. There is site and connectivity enhancement. The go-live date is July 2026-2027. These projects have so many factors, vendors, and supply chain.

9. COMMISSIONER AND BOARD MEMBER ITEMS — This item is limited to announcements and/or requests for future agenda items by CAB members and potential general announcements from the county commissioner and county manager. (non-action item)

Commissioner Herman said she is excited about this fiber project.

Ms. Gambrell said she is stepping down as Vice Chair. She requested an agenda item to have a special election.

Ms. Gambrell inquired about the High Desert Plan. She would like to see a draft. Ms. Ramos said she would ask Eric Young.

10. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT –

Jonathan Prichard spoke as a public member. He asked about the housing crisis in Gerlach. He said he would like to move to Gerlach. He asked about a future subdivision. He asked if this would be a future agenda item. Ms. Gambrell said we are working with Dave Solaro to subdivide a GID parcel. We are looking into water, sewer, and permitting. She advised him to bring his comment to the GID.

ADJOURNMENT – the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.