

SPECIAL MEETING

TUESDAY 9:00 A.M. MAY 4, 1999

PRESENT:

- Ted Short, Vice Chairman
- Joanne Bond, Commissioner
- Jim Shaw, Commissioner
- Amy Harvey, County Clerk
- Katy Simon, County Manager
- Maureen Griswold, Legal Counsel

ABSENT:

- Jim Galloway, Chairman
- Pete Sferrazza, Commissioner

The Board met in special session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 E. Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the pledge of allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerk called the roll and the Board conducted the following business with Vice Chairman Short presiding:

99-394 AGENDA

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, on motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, which motion duly carried, Vice Chairman Short ordered that the agenda for the May 4, 1999 meeting be approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no response to the call for public comments.

99-395 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Joan Lambert, Lobbyist, reviewed the status of the following bills:

- AB115 concerning locksmith permits; approved by the Governor
- AB122 concerning Justice's Court fund; approved by the Governor
- AB227 dealing with large parcels and other parceling issues; delivered to the Governor
- SB114 concerning the Sheriff's booking fees; in Assembly Judiciary
- SB115 concerning the Sheriff's alternative incarceration fees; delivered to the Governor
- SB185 concerning Drug Court appropriations; exempt - in Senate Finance
- SB311 concerning redistricting; the County lost this bill because there was a problem with dealing with redistricting without a census, so that matter got caught in a larger national issue
- SB366 concerning the Enhance 911 system; to Assembly Government Affairs
- SB367 concerning deferred compensation; now law
- SB407 concerning lease purchases; to Assembly Government Affairs
- SB408 extending the residential park construction tax to manufactured homes; scheduled for a work session
- SB410 concerning the public guardian; in Assembly Judiciary
- SB472 concerning the public administrator; in Assembly Judiciary
- SB523 would allow the County to acquire land for open space from the tax rolls, where people have not paid their taxes and the

land is going to be sold anyway, without paying back taxes; in Assembly Taxation

Ms. Lambert then discussed AB380 dealing with water issues, advising that it went out of the Assembly with an historic compromise and was sent to the Senate; and that it was deferred as they are looking at money sources. She explained that there was concern that there may some technical reason why the \$4-million that was to come from the State cannot be used, noting that there are other monies available and it is a matter of doing some technical work. Katy Simon, County Manager, noted that the County received a letter from the Tribe expressing great concern about that \$4-million funding from the State being in jeopardy.

Ms. Lambert then discussed AB597 concerning school construction, noting that the Board is on record in opposition to this bill because it mandates the County Commissions to increase the room tax 1% for schools; that the bill does more than that, however, and the sponsor would like to change it to try to deal with the serious school facilities problems in the rural counties.

Discussion then was held relative to AB471 concerning the motor vehicle privilege tax. Vice Chairman Short read the following letter dated May 3, 1999 from Chairman Galloway: "Passage of this bill would be an historic event for it is rare for any tax to be eliminated. Some months ago when we first discussed this bill I suggested a five-year phaseout as a way to moderate the impact on County revenues. Since the five-year phaseout has now been incorporated in the bill, it is my feeling that we owe it to the public to support this gradual belt-tightening in order to eliminate this much disliked special tax. I hope that, with this explanation, the Commissioners will support the bill. I am writing this memo because, in order to represent the adopted County position on another bill, SB475, I must be at the Legislature at the time of our scheduled Legislative update meeting on May 4th. I wish that I could be present personally to vote, but I know that all Commissioners will give fair consideration to this input from me and I am hopeful and optimistic that you will support AB471."

Ms. Lambert provided an update on AB471 advising that the amended bill has moved out of the Assembly to the Senate; that the amendment is for a phase-in over 5 years to commence in July, 2001, which was the County position and was adopted by the sponsor; and that this tax represents significant dollars as it is 2% of the County's budget. Ms. Lambert then responded to questions of the Board relative to AB471.

Katy Simon, County Manager, stated that staff appreciates the implementation of the tax reduction being two years down the road because had it been implemented sooner, it would have been much more difficult to plan and prepare for those impacts; that from staff's perspective this is doable and they support the bill, and are anxious to relieve the Board of the burden of having to defend that tax. Ms. Lambert commented that it is a rather new approach from government to actually listen to citizens concerns and be willing to make some sacrifices and belt-tightening to respond to those concerns. John Sherman, Finance Director, reviewed how the incremental reduction in the tax would be made, advising that he believes the reduction will average approximately \$1-million per year.

On motion by Commissioner Shaw, seconded by Commissioner Bond, which motion duly carried, Vice Chairman Short ordered that the Board of County Commissioners support AB471.

COMMISSIONERS'/MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Katy Simon, County Manager, advised that last year she established a 180-day plan and her next 180-day plan should be out tomorrow; that the Board briefing for May will also be coming out tomorrow; and that a Board retreat is scheduled for the morning of May 25 at the Bartley Ranch School House.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

TED SHORT, Vice Chairman
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST: AMY HARVEY, County Clerk

