

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA  
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING  
01-212A**

TUESDAY

2:15 P.M.

MARCH 6, 2001

PRESENT:

**WASHOE COUNTY**

Jim Shaw, Chairman  
Pete Sferrazza, Vice Chairman  
Joanne Bond, Commissioner  
Jim Galloway, Commissioner  
Ted Short, Commissioner

Amy Harvey, County Clerk  
Katy Singlaub, County Manager  
Madelyn Shipman, Legal Counsel

**CLARK COUNTY**

Dario Herrera, Chairman  
Myrna Williams, Vice Chairman  
Yvonne Atkinson Gates, Commissioner  
Erin Kenny, Commissioner  
Mary J. Kincaid, Commissioner  
Chip Maxfield, Commissioner  
Bruce L. Woodbury, Commissioner

Dale W. Askew, County Manager  
Mary Miller, Deputy District Attorney  
Deputy County Clerk

The Board met in special joint session at the Clark County Commission Chambers, Government Center, 500 South Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada. Clark County Commission Chairman Dario Hererra called the meeting to order, called the roll, and introduced the Clark County Commissioners. Commissioners Gates and Kenny arrived later in the meeting. Washoe County Chairman Jim Shaw called the roll and introduced the Washoe County Commissioners. Clark County Manager Dale Askew welcomed the Washoe County Commission and the following business was conducted:

**AGENDA**

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, Chairman Herrera moved to approve the agenda for the March 6, 2001 special joint meeting, which motion carried by unanimous vote.

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Dale Askew, Clark County Manager, introduced Katy Singlaub, Washoe County Manager.

**REPORT – WASHOE AND CLARK COUNTY BDR PACKAGES –  
2001 NEVADA LEGISLATURE**

Clark County Lobbyist, Jim Spinello, provided a report on the Clark County Bill Draft Request (BDR) packages submitted to the 2001 Nevada Legislature.

Washoe County Assistant District Attorney Madelyn Shipman reviewed Washoe County's BDR's.

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Chairman Hererra noted that Clark County Commissioners Gates and Kenny were now present.

**DISCUSSION – ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST TO WASHOE AND CLARK COUNTIES**

Clark County Manager Askew advised that this item is intended to be an informal discussion concerning issues of common interest between Washoe County and Clark County.

**State-County Reorganization of Child Welfare Programs**

Mike Alastuey, Clark County Assistant Manager, discussed the ACR53 study concerning the reconstruction of the bifurcated child welfare system in Nevada. He said it has been found by a number of academic studies that children remain too long in foster care before a successful adoption can take place, and in order to end the bifurcation, the ACR53 study has undertaken to remodel the entire system. It is believed that the new system represents an excellent opportunity for better service to young citizens. Discussion was held concerning this issue.

Anthony Hodges, Clark County citizen, suggested that the Federal government should be asked for more money to help the State with this situation. He commended Washoe County for participating in this joint meeting and hopes better government is achieved by the governments working together.

Chairman Hererra and Chairman Shaw advised that Clark County and Washoe County do whatever possible to gain Federal appropriations for county programs. Commissioner Galloway commented there needs to be a mechanism in place to alter or slow down the implementation of this program until it is determined the adoption program works the way it is supposed to. Commissioner Williams said she believes Nevada is the only state that has the bifurcated system and thinks there is enough evidence to show that the proposed system works better.

**State Delegation of Various Program Responsibilities**

County Manager Askew discussed issues Clark County is dealing with in the 2001 Legislative Session concerning unfunded mandates. Discussion was held regarding SCR11 concerning the formation of Business Courts in Washoe County and Clark County. County Manager Singlaub, Ron Longtin, Second Judicial District Court

Administrator, and Chuck Short, Clark County District Court Administrator, provided comments relative to this issue.

### **County Flexibility in Operations and Services**

Jim Spinello, Lobbyist, discussed AB92, referred to as the County Flexibility Bill. He advised the Bill is sponsored by NACO on behalf of all counties and would essentially undo Dillon's Rule in the areas of public safety, affordable housing, control and protection of animals, redevelopment, rehabilitation of property in residential neighborhoods, rehabilitation of abandoned residential property, public health and sanitation, and abatement of nuisances.

Commissioner Williams commented that all Nevada counties are facing these problems, and if county government is going to protect and serve the unincorporated citizens, this issue is crucial. The counties want the same rights to protect citizens in the unincorporated areas as is provided by the chartered cities.

Anthony Hodges, Clark County citizen, provided comments relative to this issue.

### **Land Use Planning**

- (1) Regional and jurisdictional issues
- (2) Legislative initiatives on these issues

John Schlegel, Clark County Community Planning Director, reviewed Clark County regional and interjurisdictional issues. He advised the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition was created in 1998 and is the successor organization to the Southern Nevada Strategic Planning Authority. The following mandates were handed to the Regional Coalition by the 1999 Legislature: (1) develop a regional policy plan, (2) set up a process for determining performance between local plans and the regional policy plan, and (3) come up with a definition for projects of regional significance. Based on the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Commission's experience, Clark County will not be following the example given by State law relative to setting a definition for projects of regional significance. They will likely set a definition that will focus the attention of the Regional Planning Coalition on projects and issues of regional scope.

Discussion was held regarding this issue. Commissioner Williams noted the problems that could occur when county representatives on the Regional Coalition are outnumbered on votes concerning issues that negatively impact the unincorporated area and the citizens they represent. Commissioner Kenny said she is not an advocate of the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition or development of the plan because she believes it ultimately deteriorates the authority of the county. Annexation issues were then discussed. Commissioner Galloway said that Washoe County has experienced enough imperfections and problems with the regional planning mandate that he does not

believe the process should be mandated on more people until the bugs are worked out. Anthony Hodges, Clark County citizen, provided comments concerning land use issues.

**Fiscal Issues**

County Manager Singlaub discussed fiscal issues facing Washoe County. She reviewed ACR53 concerning financing for infrastructure needs and advised that Washoe County is concerned about any proposals to shift revenues from the counties to the State. She said Washoe County is also working with various entities on issues concerning consolidation and shared services, and staff will be sure to keep Clark County apprised of those efforts. Washoe County and the City of Reno consolidated their fire departments this past year, and there is a considerable amount of joint use of facilities, such as schools and public libraries. In December, Washoe County adopted a 10-year goal to pursue looking at a consolidated City/County government with a commonly elected board. Discussion was held concerning consolidation issues.

**Electric Deregulation and Energy Issues**

Rick Holmes, Assistant County Manager, provided a copy of a resolution adopted by the Clark County Board of Commissioners setting forth their position on electric energy deregulation. He discussed the many issues associated with this subject and said everyone is learning very quickly how supplies can be affected by what is happening in California. He commented that Washoe County is probably dealing with many of these same issues, and it is an obvious topic in the Legislature. Discussion was held about energy issues.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was no response to the call for public comments.

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Chairman Herrera stated this is an historic occasion and thanked the Washoe County Commissioners for participating in the joint meeting. He commented that there are more mutual interests between the two entities than people might think, and this type of communication is important. He offered that their elected body and staff would work with Washoe County to address issues of mutual concern.

Commissioner Bond said she enjoyed this experience and found the meeting informative. She is looking forward to working with Clark County in the future. Commissioner Galloway thanked Clark County for hosting the meeting. Chairman Shaw expressed appreciation for the time and attention Clark County provided and stated he believes the meeting was beneficial for both boards.

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

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JAMES M. SHAW, Chairman

ATTEST: AMY HARVEY, County Clerk

  

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