

WASHOE COUNTY COMMISSION
RENO CITY COUNCIL
SPARKS CITY COUNCIL
WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JOINT MEETING

MONDAY

8:30 A.M.

MAY 12, 2008

PRESENT:

Bob Larkin, Washoe County Commissioner, Chairman
Bonnie Weber, Washoe County Commissioner, Vice Chairman
Jim Galloway, Washoe County Commissioner*
David Humke, Washoe County Commissioner*
Kitty Jung, Washoe County Commissioner

Robert A. Cashell, City of Reno, Mayor
Dwight Dortch, Reno City Councilmember
Dan Gustin, Reno City Councilmember
Pierre Hascheff, Reno City Councilmember
Jessica Sferrazza, Reno City Councilmember
Sharon Zadra, Reno City Councilmember*

Geno Martini, City of Sparks, Mayor
John Mayer, Sparks City Councilmember
Ron Schmitt, Sparks City Councilmember
Ron Smith, Sparks City Councilmember

Barbara Price, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees, President
Dan Carne, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees Member
Nancy Hollinger, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees Member
Jonnie Pullman, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees Member

ABSENT:

Dave Aiazzi, Reno City Councilmember
Mike Carrigan, Sparks City Councilmember
Phil Salerno, Sparks City Councilmember
Barbara Clark, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees, Vice President
Lezlie Porter, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees Member
Jody Ruggiero, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees Member

The Commission, Board, and Councils met in joint session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada, with City of Reno Mayor Robert Cashell presiding. Also present were Washoe County Manager Katy Singlaub, Assistant District Attorney Melanie Foster, County Clerk Amy Harvey, Reno City Manager Charles McNeely, Reno City Attorney John Kadlic, Reno City Clerk Lynnette Jones, Sparks City Manager Shaun Carey, Sparks Senior Assistant City Attorney Wendy Chavez, Sparks City Clerk Linda Patterson, Washoe County School District Superintendent Paul Dugan, and Washoe County School District Lead General Counsel Randy Drake.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerks called the roll for their respective entities, and the Commission, Councils, and Board conducted the following business:

08-400 AGENDA ITEM 4

Agenda Subject: “Approval of the agenda for the Reno and Sparks City Councils, the Washoe County School District and the Washoe County Commission Joint Meeting of May 12, 2008.”

In response to the call for public comment, Sam Dehne addressed the Boards and Councils.

It was moved and seconded, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Galloway, Commissioner Humke, Councilmember Aiazzi, Councilmember Zadra, Councilmember Carrigan, Councilmember Salerno, Trustee Clark, Trustee Ruggiero and Trustee Porter absent, that Agenda Item 4 be approved.

On motion by Mayor Martini, seconded by Chairman Larkin, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Galloway, Commissioner Humke, Councilmember Aiazzi, Councilmember Zadra, Councilmember Carrigan, Councilmember Salerno, Trustee Clark, Trustee Ruggiero and Trustee Porter absent, Item 10 was moved forward in the agenda.

08-401 AGENDA ITEM 10

Agenda Subject: “Staff Report: presentation, discussion and possible acceptance of the Regional Housing Task Force Report. (All Entities)”

Mark Sullivan, Chairman of the Regional Housing Task Force, conducted a PowerPoint presentation, which was placed on file with the County Clerk. He commended all of the individuals who served on the Task Force Committee, which was put together in August 2006. He indicated the Committee brought together 25 different entities and individuals who reviewed the barriers to affordable and workforce housing, and came up with the recommendations presented in the Regional Housing Task Force

Report. He reviewed the structure of the main Committee, as well as three subcommittees that worked to address finance, regulatory and development, and legislative issues.

***8:40 a.m.** Councilmember Zadra arrived at the meeting.

Mr. Sullivan stated the Committee's overarching goal was to coordinate regional activities and eliminate duplication of efforts on affordable and workforce housing, and its overarching recommendation was to establish a Regional Housing Commission. He emphasized all of the Task Force decisions and recommendations were made by a consensus of the Committee. He pointed out the Legislative Committee's recommendation was to examine legislation and to support legislative changes that were consistent with the goals of the Task Force. He said there was no proposed legislation or specific legislative language from the Committee, but the intent was for each of the entities to approach the Legislature. Mr. Sullivan related concerns recently expressed by the Chamber of Commerce, which was restricted under its own policies from supporting legislation unless something specific was brought to their board for approval. He indicated there had not been time to change the Committee's legislative recommendations after they became aware of the issue.

Mr. Sullivan referred to the recommendation on page iv of the staff report, which asked the Boards and Councils to accept the Task Force Report and to direct staff to continue working on the issues with the Task Force.

Councilmember Sferrazza thanked all of those involved for their hard work. She pointed out one of the Committee's goals was to make sure their recommendations did not sit on a shelf somewhere. She highlighted a few of the Committee's recommendations and said one of the biggest barriers would be for the entities to talk about reallocation of the room tax and other funds. She stated the current economic challenges would make it difficult for the entities to do that at the current time. She acknowledged it would take staff some time to implement the recommendations, but said the Committee's hard work had finally produced a document that would allow everyone to move forward.

Mayor Cashell asked about the estimated financial impact on the entities. Mr. Sullivan explained the financial analysis had not yet been done and the Committee was waiting for the entities to accept the recommendations. Given the current resources, he indicated the Committee understood that the things they wanted to happen might not happen at this time. He reiterated the recommendation in the staff report was to accept the Task Force Report and direct staff to work with the Committee on implementing the priority recommendations. He stated the financial impacts and Task Force recommendations would come back before the Boards and Councils for approval or disapproval.

***8:48 a.m.** Commissioner Humke arrived at the meeting.

Councilmember Sferrazza noted the Reno City Council set aside \$100,000 to help with permit fees on affordable housing projects and about \$17,000 had been spent to date. She asked whether those funds would be carried over to the next fiscal year. Charles McNeely, Reno City Manager, assured her the funds would carry over.

For the City of Reno, on motion by Councilmember Sferrazza, seconded by Councilmember Gustin, which motion duly carried with Councilmember Aiazzi absent, Mayor Cashell ordered that the recommendations be approved.

For the City of Sparks, on motion by Councilmember Mayer, seconded by Councilmember Smith, which motion duly carried with Councilmembers Carrigan and Salerno absent, Mayor Martini ordered that the recommendations be approved.

For Washoe County, on motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Galloway absent, Chairman Larkin ordered that the recommendations be approved.

For the Washoe County School District, on motion by Trustee Pullman, seconded by Trustee Carne, which motion duly carried with Trustees Clark, Ruggiero and Porter absent, President Price ordered that the recommendations be approved.

In response to the call for public comment, Sam Dehne indicated, although the financial impact had not been analyzed, there would be a lot of money involved. He questioned how “affordable housing” was defined and hoped a way could be found to build housing for less than \$100,000 within the community.

***8:52 a.m.** Commissioner Galloway arrived at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 5

Agenda Subject: “Public Comment (three-minute time limit per person) – (Additional Public Comment on specific agenda items will be limited to three-minute time limit per person after each agenda item and must be related to the specific agenda item.) Comments to be addressed to the Chair of the meeting and to the Reno and Sparks City Councils, Washoe County School District, and the Washoe County Commission as a whole.”

There was no public comment.

08-402 AGENDA ITEM 6

Agenda Subject: “Update on the Final Report and Actions of the SB 154 Committee. (Washoe County School District)”

Paul Dugan, Superintendent for the Washoe County School District (WCSD), conducted a PowerPoint presentation, which was placed on file with the

County Clerk. He said it became clear in 2004 that revenue from a rollover bond passed by the voters in 2002 was not going to be enough to deal with future new school construction and older school revitalization. He attributed this to an extreme rise of over 35 percent in construction costs, as well as Property Tax Caps that went into effect in 2005. He displayed a chart summarizing revenue sources for all of the counties in Nevada and pointed out Washoe County was the only school district with no revenue sources in addition to property and government service taxes. He reviewed some of the legislative history surrounding the issue, which led to the 2007 formation of the SB 154 Committee chaired by Senator Randolph Townsend. Mr. Dugan related the Committee's decision to focus its efforts on finding additional revenues for older school revitalization and technology, which led to an estimate of \$393 million that would be needed from 2008 to 2014. After a comprehensive discussion of revenue sources, he said the Committee unanimously recommended placing a question on the November 2008 ballot for voters to approve an increase of 0.250 percent in the sales tax and a 1/2-cent government services (vehicle registration) tax. He indicated it would not be necessary to go back to the Legislature if the voters passed the question, and the increases would take effect in January 2009. Mr. Dugan stated the next steps would be to develop a campaign to convince the voters and to get critical input from the WCSD Bond Oversight Committee.

Mayor Cashell questioned why an increase in the vehicle registration tax was selected rather than the real property transfer tax. Mr. Dugan stated it was felt the revenues should not be dependent on a single sector such as housing or casinos. The Committee felt the real property transfer tax was single-source focused and there was not enough support for it among Committee members. Trustee Pullman pointed out the WCSD already received some revenue from the government services tax.

Councilmember Dortch asked how the ballot question campaign would be funded. Mr. Dugan said it would have to be privately financed. He indicated the Campaign Committee recently held its first meeting and planned to meet every week until the November 2008 election.

Chairman Larkin pointed out the question had to be placed on the ballot by the County Commission and the language would need to be brought before the Commission prior to the July 2008 deadline. Mr. Dugan said Senator Townsend would present the language by way of a resolution and ordinance to the WCSD School Board on May 21, 2008, and the matter would go before the County Commission following the School Board's approval.

Councilmember Gustin asked about the basis for estimating sales tax revenues. Mr. Dugan indicated the numbers were generated by the Legislative Counsel Bureau and outside bond counsel, based on 2007 data. They believed the estimate was a low figure that took the economic situation into account.

In response to the call for public comment, Todd Campbell encouraged the Washoe County Commission to place the question on the ballot so the voters could decide.

Sam Dehne suggested the SB 154 Committee should have included a regular citizen and a student.

Councilmember Sferrazza requested a breakdown of where improvements would be made to the older schools. Mayor Cashell asked Mr. Dugan to forward such information to all of the officials.

For the City of Reno, on motion by Councilmember Dortch, seconded by Councilmember Hascheff, which motion duly carried with Councilmember Aiazzi absent, Mayor Cashell ordered that the update be accepted.

For the City of Sparks, on motion by Councilmember Mayer, seconded by Councilmember Smith, which motion duly carried with Councilmembers Carrigan and Salerno absent, Mayor Martini ordered that the update be accepted.

For Washoe County, on motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried, Chairman Larkin ordered that the update be accepted.

For the Washoe County School District, on motion by Trustee Carne, seconded by Trustee Pullman, which motion duly carried with Trustees Clark, Ruggiero and Porter absent, President Price ordered that the update be accepted.

08-403 AGENDA ITEM 7

Agenda Subject: “Staff Report: Discussion, direction and possible adoption of the Regional Level of Service Standards as defined in the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan and potential update on the Blue Ribbon Task Force. (All Entities)”

Derek Morse, Deputy Executive Director of the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), conducted a PowerPoint presentation, which was placed on file with the County Clerk. He explained the Level of Service (LOS) Standards were a key tool for managing congestion within the community and for identifying necessary road projects. He reviewed the current LOS Standards, which designated almost everything inside the McCarran ring as LOS D and almost everything outside the McCarran ring as LOS C. He pointed out the standards had become less appropriate as areas outside of the McCarran ring evolved and there was inconsistent treatment of areas with similar development densities. Mr. Morse noted there were significant long-term costs associated with sustaining the current LOS standards, as well as negative impacts to some neighborhoods while projects were underway. He indicated the proposed changes to the LOS Standards were consistent with those used by several other communities. He stated the proposed LOS standards were developed in consultation with the Public Works Departments of Reno, Sparks and Washoe County, and had been endorsed by the RTC Board in December 2007. He reviewed the proposed changes to the standards and their long-term impacts. He indicated the average per capita traffic delay was expected to increase by

about 1-1/2 minutes per day and there would be an estimated savings of \$488 million in infrastructure costs through the year 2040.

Mr. Morse said the RTC's final recommendation was for the City of Reno, City of Sparks and Washoe County to adopt the proposed LOS standards. He observed this would require eventual revision of land use plans and ordinances as they were updated. He recommended that design activity for projects that were already underway should be continued under the old standards and design activity that started after adoption should be guided by the new standards.

Chairman Larkin asked about the average wait time for people in the community. Mr. Morse said the increase in the average per capita wait time was projected through the year 2040, with less of an increase in the earlier years and more as time went on. He agreed with Chairman Larkin that most commuters were unlikely to see a demonstrable change over the next five years.

Councilmember Zadra inquired whether there was any opportunity to improve on motorists' delay times by improving the synchronization schedule, which looked at each intersection every three years within the City of Reno. Mr. Morse suggested three years was a reasonable period of time for most intersections. He said it was possible to identify extremely busy intersections that might benefit from more frequent optimization of traffic signals.

Commissioner Humke requested a brief description of current RTC initiatives to update developer impact fees, as well as an overview of the work being done by the Blue Ribbon Task Force. Mr. Morse explained the RTC Board formed a Blue Ribbon Committee (BRC) on transportation funding, which was composed of approximately 30 community leaders from a wide variety of occupations and interests. He said they had been meeting every two weeks since the beginning of February 2008 to look at transportation funding issues within the community for streets, highways and public mass transit. The BRC looked at needs, revenues, shortfalls and potential solutions at the federal, State, regional and local levels for all activities. Among several key issues identified by the BRC, Mr. Morse indicated there were enormous shortfalls in transportation funding for future needs, primarily caused by inflation. He pointed out revenues collected in the last five years at the State and federal levels were 30 percent less than in 2003 for every mile driven within the local jurisdiction. He stated there were similar losses at the local level, although they were not as severe because indexing was in place for local taxes. The BRC realized that inflationary erosion of revenues would get worse until the fundamental problem was addressed, and the numbers were too big to bring to the voters as a single step solution.

To protect gas and diesel fuel taxes from inflation, Mr. Morse said the BRC recommended moving to a Producer Price Index for street and highway construction at local, State and federal levels, with shadow indexing to be used at the State and federal levels. He stated the BRC also recommended to the RTC Board that there be periodic review of the new revenue stream to ensure that collections did not

exceed needs. The BRC wanted to see public outreach education regarding the transportation fees paid by developers and the entire transportation funding structure.

Mr. Morse indicated the BRC would consider the following additional issues at its final meeting on May 15, 2008:

- Placement on the ballot of additional funding sources for street and highway construction.
- A list of initial projects to address some of the worst areas in the community if revenues became available.
- A recommendation to address mass transit funding, which was facing significant cuts in service because of the downturn in the economy.
- Pursuing equity for transportation impacts caused by development in adjacent counties such as Storey County.
- Approaching the federal government to increase spending on transportation infrastructure (an ongoing RTC activity).
- A recommendation that the RTC Board continue moving to DMT fees as a future replacement for traditional funding of transportation infrastructure.
- Longer term actions to address the remaining projected shortfall in transportation funding.

Mr. Morse discussed work being done with respect to developer impact fees, for which the rates were being recalculated based on the construction and land inflation seen over the last couple of years. He stated the new fee rates would come before the RTC Board on May 16, 2008. He said there would probably be a five-year period to phase in the fees, given the burden placed on the building and construction industry by current economic conditions.

Commissioner Humke asked whether the BRC had taken into account the ballot initiative for K-12 education in Washoe County. Mr. Morse indicated the BRC was sensitive to the initiative, but he did not believe there was a conflict between the funding sources.

Councilmember Sferrazza inquired about discussions to consolidate the RTC Board and Regional Planning Governing Board (RPGB). Mr. Morse explained a scope of work was suggested for subcommittees from the RTC and the RPGB to define the issues. He noted the solutions could include anything from more robust collaboration to some consolidation. He believed the subcommittees were having their first meetings in June 2008. Councilmember Sferrazza said she hoped there would be some determination before the 2009 Legislative Session, because the RPGB was State mandated.

Councilmember Sferrazza questioned whether there was any analysis of how much more it would cost to wait five years to fix the roads that were currently below the LOS C level. At current inflation rates, Mr. Morse pointed out any project would cost

about 30 percent more in five years. Councilmember Sferrazza noted the City of Reno decided to move forward with its street program because it was actually cheaper to do the bonding now. Mr. Morse stated the RTC could provide data regarding current and future project costs. He remarked there were some circumstances where bonding did not make sense because the size of the combined projects might overwhelm the industry and drive prices up. If new revenues were approved, he explained the RTC was considering an accelerated five- to ten-year program that would involve some initial bonding to speed a lot of projects up and would then rely on “pay as you go” funding. He pointed out this would keep a good steady pace of growth rather than creating spikes in the industry followed by lay-offs after the projects were done. He noted one of the problems at the State level was that they were bonded to the hilt.

Councilmember Sferrazza asked about the progress of the Veteran’s Parkway (Pyramid to Tahoe) project. Mr. Morse replied an alignment study was underway within the valley corridor. He estimated there would be initial reports to the RTC Board later in the summer about alignment alternatives, with a final alignment determination later in the year. Councilmember Sferrazza inquired as to whether there was funding for the project. Mr. Morse indicated the alignment study had been funded, but there were no specific funds earmarked or identified for the project at this time. He suggested the project might be considered for acceleration if revenues became available.

For the City of Reno, on motion by Councilmember Dortch, seconded by Councilmember Zadra, which motion duly carried with Councilmember Aiazzi absent, Mayor Cashell ordered that the staff report in Agenda Item 7 be accepted and the Regional Level of Service Standards as defined in the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan be adopted.

For the City of Sparks, on motion by Councilmember Mayer, seconded by Councilmember Smith, which motion duly carried with Councilmembers Carrigan and Salerno absent, Mayor Martini ordered that the staff report in Agenda Item 7 be accepted and the Regional Level of Service Standards as defined in the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan be adopted.

For Washoe County, on motion by Commissioner Humke, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried, Chairman Larkin ordered that the staff report in Agenda Item 7 be accepted and the Regional Level of Service Standards as defined in the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan be adopted.

08-404 AGENDA ITEM 8

Agenda Subject: “Staff Report: Presentation, discussion and possible direction to staff on operations and oversight of the Homeless Services at the Community Assistance Center. (City of Reno)”

Jody Royal-Goodwin, Community Reinvestment Manager for the City of Reno, conducted a PowerPoint presentation, which was placed on file with the County

Clerk. She explained there were about 850 individuals in Washoe County who were homeless on any given night. She reviewed the costs associated with homelessness and described work done by the three jurisdictions and the Reno Area Alliance for the Homeless (RAAH) between 2001 and 2005 to identify needed services and facilities within the community. She explained Phase I of the Community Assistance Center (CAC) campus was completed in November 2005 to house the St. Vincent's Dining Facility, the Reno-Sparks Gospel mission and the Men's Drop-in-Center. Phase IIA was completed in March 2008 and included space for a Community Triage Center, Women's Drop-in-Center and Crisis Intervention Team office. She indicated Phase IIB was scheduled to open in October 2008 and would house a Family Shelter and Resource Center. She referred to the plan adopted by the three jurisdictions in February 2007, entitled *Housing for All: A Plan to End Homelessness*, which was intended to improve the provision of services and to improve outcomes for persons experiencing homelessness. She summarized the anticipated programming and services to be offered at the CAC.

Ms. Royal-Goodwin identified long-term operations and oversight of the CAC as the primary reason for the item currently under discussion. She stated there was a significant funding gap due to increased operating costs and an increased range of services. She indicated staff was looking to formalize the roles and responsibilities between the jurisdictions for contracting and oversight of services at the CAC. She emphasized the intent of the CAC was to help individuals and families to recover from homelessness, rather than to give them a place to stay for 30 days and then return them to the streets. She reviewed some of the cost-saving measures that were being investigated to reduce the estimated funding gap from over \$2 million to under \$1 million for fiscal year 2008-09. She talked about the opportunities identified by the City of Reno to support CAC operations. She indicated staff was looking into the creation of a long-term endowment to fund future operation of all three shelters and the resource center, as well as maintenance and security for the facility.

9:49 a.m. Councilmember Dortch left the meeting.

Gabrielle Enfield, Community Support Administrator for Washoe County, conducted a PowerPoint presentation, which was placed on file with the County Clerk. She reviewed several of the opportunities identified by Washoe County to support operations and reduce costs. She listed cash and in-kind contributions for operation of the CAC by Washoe County, the City of Reno and the Restart Family Shelter Endowment. She discussed grant opportunities and donations that were still being pursued by staff. She cautioned that several assumptions were made in order to reduce the funding gap and it would be necessary to work with a non-profit vendor on the plans to provide services. She anticipated success in finding volunteers to implement several of the programs. She concluded there were three primary challenges to be addressed: the fiscal year 2008-09 operational funding gap, operational oversight and coordination for the complex campus of providers and services, and fiscal and contractual oversight to coordinate a complicated mix of funding sources and funding regulations.

9:58 a.m. Councilmember Schmitt temporarily left the meeting.

Commissioner Jung asked whether there was a breakdown of how many veterans received services at the CAC campus. Ms. Royal-Goodwin said there was not a firm number, but a range of 10 to 35 percent was estimated based on various types of data. Commissioner Jung wondered whether any type of reimbursement was being pursued from the Veteran's Administration or from service agencies such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars or the American Legion. Ms. Royal-Goodwin replied that grant and per diem funding could be analyzed more closely once the project got going. She cautioned that 75 percent of the population served had to be veterans in order to qualify for some funding sources, and there was no reimbursement available from the Veteran's Administration, although they would provide case management services.

10:01 a.m. Councilmember Schmitt returned to the meeting.

Commissioner Jung suggested the staff contact Northern Nevada HOPES, a Ryan White Act federally funded program, to assist with the proposed HIV/AIDS testing and counseling services. Ms. Royal-Goodwin said it was anticipated that foundations located within the community would be providing those services.

Commissioner Jung inquired as to whether those served at the CAC also received assistance with filling out their income tax returns, particularly those with children who qualified for earned income tax credits. Ms. Royal-Goodwin noted there were currently no family populations receiving services, but tax assistance information was provided through the RAAH and a network of other providers. Commissioner Jung requested data about how many people were helped to fill out their income tax returns.

Commissioner Jung said she previously directed staff to look into a partnership with the local hotels and motels to reclaim unused soap, shampoo and other supplies for the homeless shelters. Ms. Enfield indicated she had not yet specifically investigated such an initiative, but it had been identified as a means of obtaining donations. She stated the current provider at the men's shelter did receive donated items from the casino community. Commissioner Jung requested more expediency and offered to help with the effort.

Commissioner Jung confirmed with Ms. Royal-Goodwin that the \$3,722 average cost of an emergency room visit was a national average rather than a local number. Ms. Royal-Goodwin also identified that the cost provided for one day spent in jail was based on local data and the cost given for a detoxification stay was based on a national average. Commissioner Jung requested all of the information in terms of local dollars. She thanked all of the staff members for their great work.

Councilmember Sferrazza referred to fiscal equity studies previously done between the Cities and the County, and said the County relied on the rationale that it provided social services. She suggested the County was saving a lot of money because operation of a homeless shelter led to reduced jail time for individuals who might

otherwise be booked into civil protective custody. She requested an analysis of the cost savings to the County associated with an operational homeless shelter, as well as the elimination of the County's Homeless Evaluation Liaison Program (H.E.L.P.) officer. She remarked the County should be stepping up to the plate because homeless services were an area of social services. She said the City of Reno built and constructed the facility, but was not in the business of providing social services.

Washoe County Manager Katy Singlaub stated Washoe County increased its funding for homeless services from \$283,000 in 2006-07 to more than \$1 million in 2008-09 by providing social workers to work on site. Additionally, she pointed out the County increased the amount provided from the General Fund and was making a \$250,000 allocation from the Indigent Medical Assistance Fund. She noted the County was being asked to support three shelters, as opposed to the one that had traditionally been provided in the community. She characterized the enhanced level of service as wonderful for the community and absolutely the right thing to do for the region. She observed that all of the governing entities had needs they were unable to completely fulfill. She said the County was stepping up to the table and explained she met with staff all last week to identify additional resources that could be provided and allocated to the shelters. Ms. Singlaub remarked the resources were not a bottomless pit for any of the entities, whether they were responding to police emergencies or trying to meet any of their other responsibilities in the region. She stated the command staff of the jail did not anticipate a significant reduction in jail days and those who came to the jail were there because they committed a crime.

10:13 a.m. Mayor Martini temporarily left the meeting.

Washoe County Assistant Sheriff Lisa Haney explained the resources for the County's H.E.L.P. officer were reallocated to help with homeless individuals inside the jail because of the severe budget crisis. She estimated, on average, that 10 percent of the inmate population was considered homeless. She cautioned that a lot of inmates said they were homeless in order to qualify for a public defender and avoid having to reimburse their medical care, so it was hard to judge the accuracy of the number.

Assistant Sheriff Haney clarified that civil protective custody was for individuals found on the street who could not care for themselves. She said such individuals were usually intoxicated and were kept in the jail for less than 48 hours or until they reached a certain blood alcohol level. They were then released and given bus tickets back into town. She pointed out those who were mentally impaired were not supposed to come to the jail.

Mayor Cashell noted this was another prime example where some form of consolidation or interlocal agreement needed to work.

Chairman Larkin pointed out the region had made considerable strides over the last decade in the realm of homeless services and the community should be very appreciative of the City of Reno's efforts. He said the task now was to determine how to

operate and maintain the facility and how to provide oversight for it. He asked about the daily population at the Men's, Women's and Family Shelters. Ms. Royal-Goodwin replied there could be 322 people staying overnight at the shelters, although 850 were considered to be homeless within the community.

Chairman Larkin questioned what was meant by the terms "range of service" and "expanded service." Ms. Enfield explained the Men's Shelter was the only one that was currently operational and it was primarily a safe shelter from the cold. She said a limited number of service providers came in on a semi-regular basis, such as to sign people up for food stamps. She indicated there was currently no staffing or funding for a case manager who could follow individuals to identify their needs, determine what benefits were available, or work to find permanent housing. She stated the model for the Family Shelter and the Women's Shelter was to provide such services, as well as more ancillary services to help families move out of homelessness. She clarified that many of the supportive services were expected to be partnerships with other providers. Ms. Enfield attributed the primary cost increases to case management for social services and professional staff for management and operations of the facility. Chairman Larkin inquired whether the decision on the basic service model was made through the oversight of an elected body. Ms. Enfield replied the change from merely providing housing to providing supportive services that would assist people to move out of homelessness was based on a best practices model. Chairman Larkin said he would like to see more information on the best practices. Ms. Enfield pointed out that most communities utilized a model of providing case management and assistance. She indicated the average cost for a night's stay in shelters across the country was between \$30 and \$50 per night, while the cost estimates for the CAC were significantly lower. Chairman Larkin requested information about costs and services provided in communities of roughly the same size. He noted it was a significant change to move from a budget of \$250,000 in 2007-08 to over \$1 million in 2008-09. Ms. Enfield stated the current shelter was operated by a Mission organization that did not utilize a lot of paid staff. Chairman Larkin suggested there might be some elements of the current model that were still applicable. He asked if any of the numbers had been audited. Ms. Enfield stated the numbers were estimates and had not been audited. Ms. Royal-Goodwin clarified the budget was developed by looking at how many shelter monitors were needed to maintain control at various times of the day based on how other shelters were staffed, applying that to the anticipated number of beds, and then whittling away at what could be provided by volunteers or in-kind donations. She observed much of the budget was also related to food costs. Chairman Larkin remarked that food and energy costs would undoubtedly play a significant role.

10:18 a.m. Councilmember Zadra temporarily left the meeting.

Chairman Larkin referred to staff's recommendation to accept the report and give direction for staff to continue working together and come up with a usable regional model for oversight and management. He asked how the oversight model would be developed and what elements staff was already looking at. Ms. Royal-Goodwin replied staff had just been working through budget numbers up to this point. Chairman Larkin suggested staff would probably bring back a report at the fall quarterly joint

meeting and wondered whether oversight would be done by elected officials or professional staff. Ms. Royal-Goodwin said staff was looking for direction and input as to what the Boards and Councils wanted to see within the model.

10:20 a.m. Mayor Martini returned to the meeting.

Chairman Larkin pointed out there were some very successful models in terms of how agencies and governments worked together within a community. He requested staff look at those and bring more oversight back to the joint bodies. He emphasized the importance of moving forward with the suggested models, but indicated the costs needed to be scrutinized more closely. He commented there were other communities with different philosophies and approaches.

10:24 a.m. Councilmember Zadra returned to the meeting.

Mayor Cashell observed the federal government had already come up with a program for trying to end homelessness within a ten-year period that was being adopted by communities nationwide. He suggested the City and County Managers get together and come up with some form of interlocal agreement and an equitable funding solution.

Trustee Pullman pointed out the WCSD provided services for 1,400 to 1,900 homeless children each year, and that did not include high school students who were able to hide the fact that they were homeless. She said the WCSD was committed to working with the Cities and the County, and would be providing transportation to the school of origin for homeless kids staying in the Family Shelter. She did not want to see the kids overlooked in the discussion and remarked that education was the only way to really end the cycle of homelessness. She thought the jurisdictions had already adopted the ten-year plan referred to by Mayor Cashell.

Councilmember Mayer said he was very disturbed by the proposal to move block grant money to the homeless program. He indicated it would only take money away from a service that was greatly needed in the community and put it toward something else. He believed it would only compound the need and it was not the right thing to do. He suggested the block grant money be declared off bounds and the money be found someplace else.

Reno City Manager Charles McNeely agreed the managers and staff could look at best practices, scrutinize the budget and provide some recommendations to the jurisdictions. He said there was no question the County had stepped up and done a great job. He agreed with the County Manager that costs were increasing and were already a significant chunk of the budget, but pointed out costs were increasing everywhere. He emphasized the fundamental question of who was responsible for providing the service and how funds were to be allocated was a policy call that needed to be made among the joint bodies.

Mayor Cashell stated it fell under the County's jurisdiction, but a way needed to be found for the Cities to contribute and help balance the budget. He requested the three managers pull together whatever staff they wanted, get together and figure it out so everyone was paying their fair share.

Councilmember Sferrazza commented the Reno Housing Authority was no longer taking applications for its Section 8 waiting list because the list was already too long and public housing was full. She noted there would be more of a demand for services at the CAC facility as the cost of goods and gasoline continued to rise. She reiterated her belief that, according to how the governments were set up, the County had a fundamental obligation to provide social services in the community.

Ms. Singlaub stated that counties were governed by Nevada Revised Statutes with respect to the services they must provide. She indicated Washoe County functioned under Dillon's Rule, which meant it could only provide the services specifically dictated by the State Legislature. She pointed out many of the services provided at the homeless shelters were mandated services of the County and those were the things the County was stepping up to provide within its budgeted resources. She noted some of the proposed services, although excellent for the community, went beyond the scope of what counties were authorized to provide within the State of Nevada and were really part of the gap that everyone had to work through together as a region. She said it was necessary to determine the role of nonprofits and private donations. She agreed with Mr. McNeely's comments and observed everyone working together at the staff level was anxious to engage the community in the ongoing discussion of how funding would work. She noted for the public record that the \$1,035,000 the County was putting into operations for 2008-09 did not include the \$300,000 capital contribution the County was making every year for five years toward the cost of construction.

Mayor Cashell suggested staff should look at the things that were mandated, talk about how to fund the rest, and then come back to the joint bodies without delay. He requested fast tracking the issue for an expedient discussion and resolution.

Councilmember Hascheff clarified the total amount listed in Table 3 of the staff report was incorrect, and should be about \$497,000 (see Table 1) rather than \$1.5 million. Ms. Royal-Goodwin agreed and explained the Triage Center should not have been included in the total because it received hospital funding.

In response to the call for public comment, Elizabeth Dorway, Director of Family Promise and Chair of the RAAH, thanked the members of the joint bodies for considering such an important issue. She recognized a number of the service providers seated in the audience who supported efforts to fund the shelters. She commented that everyone was seeing huge increases in the number of people who needed help and there were people staying in shelters who would never have imagined they would be homeless. She said it was important to recognize that construction workers who had been gainfully employed and people who lost their homes to foreclosure were now sleeping in shelters. She reminded everyone how important it was to consider the human element as decisions

were made about the money. She added there were many in the community who had been working toward the case management model in order to move people from homelessness and into permanent housing. She pointed out that 88 percent of the families served through Catholic Community Services, Project Restart and Family Promise were able to move into permanent housing when the case management model was used. She emphasized it was the only way to end homelessness. Ms. Dorway thanked everyone for all of their hard work.

Mayor Cashell pointed out that churches needed to be brought into the fold. He talked about passing out food during Thanksgiving along with Mayor Martini and seeing people go to multiple locations that were also providing food. He indicated he had already talked to the Reno City Manager about getting together with the people at the churches and consolidating the help being provided.

On motion by Mayor Cashell, seconded by Chairman Larkin, which motion duly carried with Councilmember Aiazzi, Councilmember Dortch, Councilmember Carrigan, Councilmember Salerno, Trustee Clark, Trustee Ruggiero and Trustee Porter absent, the Boards and Councils directed the City and County Managers to get with their staff people, identify what could be done, come up with a funding mechanism, put together a game plan for the provision of homeless services at the Community Assistance Center, and come back before the jurisdictions within 90 days.

08-405 AGENDA ITEM 9

Agenda Subject: “Update presentation, discussion and possible direction to staff on the potential shared services opportunities. (All Entities)”

Charles McNeely, Reno City Manager, explained the joint bodies directed staff to look at opportunities for shared services and potential cost savings to the taxpayers. He said staff would be asking for comments and feedback following the report, as well as some support from the joint bodies for moving forward. He pointed out the recommendation in the staff report that suggested an update in six months for the six areas identified in the staff report. He clarified there were a number of items that would not take the full six months, and said staff was asking for the flexibility to implement such items more quickly when possible.

10:44 a.m. Councilmember Mayer temporarily left the meeting.

Katy Singlaub, Washoe County Manager, complimented the staff from the respective entities for their hard work. Although it was not reflected in the staff report, she pointed out the team had also engaged the Washoe County School District (WCSD) in the process. She said staff looked at several criteria, including:

- how could more units of service be provided using the same or fewer resources;

- what was feasible to be done right now with the greatest opportunity for success;
- how the quality and value of service to the citizens could be improved;
- what unique opportunities existed right now, such as retirements among key personnel; and
- how the game plan could include measurable performance results for the taxpayers.

Ms. Singlaub indicated the Team wanted to build on the many existing examples of successfully shared services, such as the 800 MHz system, the Regional Public Safety Training Center and consolidated animal services.

10:46 a.m. Councilmember Smith temporarily left the meeting.

10:46 a.m. Councilmember Mayer returned to the meeting.

Shaun Carey, Sparks City Manager, said he welcomed the collaboration that was occurring. He explained the Assistant Managers brought their staff experts to the table for each area identified, and the Team was seeing some real opportunities for increased efficiency through collaboration. He expected the process of working through a manageable set of objectives to yield a better government for everyone in the region.

10:50 a.m. Councilmember Mayer left the meeting.

Mary Hill, Reno Assistant City Manager, conducted a PowerPoint presentation, which was placed on file with the County Clerk. She recognized the other members of the Regional Shared Services Team (RSST): Sparks Assistant City Managers Steve Driscoll and Randy Mellinger, Assistant County Manager John Sherman, County Finance Director John Sherman, and Reno Legislative Manager Nick Anthony. She referred to the Team's mission statement. She apologized for not recognizing the participation of the WCSD in the staff report, and pointed out the effort could include other additional entities in the future. She said the Team identified six possible areas of opportunity and involved the operational staff managers to further analyze each area, including: Parks and Recreation, Fleet Services, Human Resources, Information Technology, Purchasing and Risk Management.

10:53 a.m. Commissioner Jung temporarily left the meeting.

10:53 a.m. Councilmember Smith returned to the meeting.

10:53 a.m. Commissioner Galloway left the meeting.

10:55 a.m. Councilmember Smith left the meeting.

10:56 a.m. Commissioner Jung returned to the meeting.

Ms. Hill reviewed a list of possible shared opportunities identified within each of the six areas. She indicated the RSST Management Team would continue to meet to identify the resources needed to go forward, establish a timeline, set priorities, identify potential outcomes and results, and report back to the jurisdictions within six months.

Commissioner Jung suggested the addition of Senior Services and Regional Green Initiatives to the six areas of opportunity that were already identified. She said she was recently made aware it would cost about \$150,000, (which would probably be reclaimed fairly rapidly), to hire staff to pursue reimbursement from agencies such as the Veterans Administration. She hoped the Team would look at the relative strengths of each of the entities under each area of opportunity. She wondered if Information Technology was looking at the use of common software.

Trustee Pullman said, although the WCSD did not fully overlap with the other entities, they appreciated being invited to participate and had a lot to contribute. She pointed out there was a WCSD staff member dedicated to conservation issues throughout the WCSD buildings, and the WCSD actually pioneered the use of geothermal heat exchange in some of its newer schools.

Chairman Larkin asked why roads were not included on the Team's list of opportunities. Ms. Hill said she was not sure why roads were not on the list, but explained the Team unanimously selected the six areas because they offered the greatest opportunity for success in the near future. She said the Team would be happy to add roads to the list.

Mayor Cashell expressed concern about a six-month timeline and suggested 90 days was more appropriate. He stated it was possible the 2009 Legislature would make shared services a mandate. Mr. McNeely observed that, although there was a six-month plan, the Team anticipated that a number of things could be accomplished much sooner. He emphasized the Team was trying to focus on items that could be brought back to the entities in a comprehensive manner, rather than biting off everything at once. Mayor Cashell hoped the Team would come back with specifics for each item. Mr. McNeely agreed, but cautioned there were fewer staff people to do the work being undertaken due to economic constraints.

Councilmember Sferrazza suggested the members from each jurisdiction select one project and work with staff and legal counsel to make recommendations to their respective agencies. She offered to put an item on the Reno City Council agenda to have a subcommittee focus on one issue.

Ms. Singlaub indicated the Team wanted specific and direct guidance from the elected officials, and the intent today was to have the bodies adopt and give direction for a work plan to be implemented over the next six months. She said appointing representatives from the elected bodies would result in Open Meeting Law requirements to prepare agendas, notices and minutes. She suggested staff could

accomplish more work in a more expedient manner if the bodies were to adopt a work plan and hold staff accountable to get it done and report back. Mayor Cashell agreed.

Commissioner Weber suggested the Team put together a list of when meetings were to be held on certain topics, so officials could stop by if there was something of interest to them. She pointed out she did not have a copy of the written staff report in front of her and suggested it would have been helpful to have one.

No further action was taken on this item.

08-406 AGENDA ITEM 11

Agenda Subject: “Briefing relative to the roles of the various entities in the provision of Senior Services, discussion and potential direction to staff. (All Entities)”

11:15 a.m. Councilmember Sferrazza temporarily left the meeting.

11:16 a.m. Councilmember Gustin temporarily left the meeting.

Grady Tarbutton, Director of Washoe County Senior Services, conducted a PowerPoint presentation, which was placed on file with the County Clerk. He said there was a strategic planning goal to engage the entire community in discussing how to deal with the aging population. He indicated he would present some strategies that allowed collaboration and pointed out there was already ongoing collaboration between the three jurisdictions. For example, he stated the Reno Parks and Recreation Department, Sparks Parks and Recreation Department and Washoe County Senior Services put together 70 events for seniors in the community to be held over the course of a single month.

11:17 a.m. Councilmember Gustin returned to the meeting.

Mr. Tarbutton reviewed the goals of the Washoe County Senior Services strategic plan. He talked about the County services and programs already in place for seniors. He pointed out the senior population was expected to grow from 67,000 today to 75,000 in 2011 and 100,000 by the year 2020, which represented 20 percent of the entire population. He indicated partnerships would be required in order to prevent institutionalization, create opportunities for volunteers, and generate cost savings among the agencies. He stated there was an average cost of \$211 per day for long-term care in Nevada during 2008 and community-based care for seniors received a reduction in services during the last legislative session. He referred to a model developed by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, entitled “*A Blueprint for an Aging Society.*” He also referred to “*Aging in Place: A Toolkit for Local Governments,*” which was developed by the Atlanta Regional Commission. He discussed the issues and needs of aging seniors and what was meant by “aging in place.”

11:24 a.m. Councilmember Sferrazza returned to the meeting.

Mr. Tarbutton displayed a chart showing the anticipated growth of the senior population from 2008 to 2025. He noted at least 50 percent of those aged 85 or older would need some form of assistance with their activities of daily living. He commented that senior issues were not always considered in all forms of community planning. He outlined a list summarizing the direction given to staff by the Board of County Commissioners at their April 2008 Retreat.

11:26 a.m. Councilmember Zadra left the meeting.

Mr. Tarbutton reviewed several best practices and policies that supported the County's emerging vision for lifelong communities and aging in place. He talked about the New Columbia planned community in Portland, Oregon as an example of best practices in planning. He said staff put together a grid of the numerous places seniors had to go when applying for food stamps, Medicaid and County services, which demonstrated the need to link organizations. He emphasized the importance of civic engagement among volunteers, advocates and all segments of the community. Mr. Tarbutton provided a copy of the *Strategic Plan for Washoe County Senior Citizens from 2006-2016*, which was placed on file with the County Clerk.

Commissioner Jung asked what it would cost for the County to hire a veteran's services officer. Mr. Tarbutton said he did not have an exact figure, but estimated \$150,000 for two staff members and a clerk. Commissioner Jung wondered if staff would look at the business case and come back with an estimate of how much money could be reclaimed by pursuing such a program. Mr. Tarbutton cautioned that a veteran's services officer had to be certified by the federal Veteran's Administration, which could take up to two years. Commissioner Jung asked if it was possible to recruit certified individuals. Mr. Tarbutton said he spoke with Tim Tetz, Executive Director of the Nevada Office of Veteran Services, who was willing to work with the agencies and help in any way he could.

Councilmember Sferrazza stated Councilmember Aiazzi was interested in a partnership and would advocate for partial funding at the City of Reno if Washoe County and the City of Sparks could also agree.

No action was taken on this item.

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11:35 am. There being no further business to come before the joint bodies, on motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Chairman Larkin, , which motion duly carried with Commissioner Galloway, Councilmember Aiazzi, Councilmember Dortch, Councilmember Zadra, Councilmember Carrigan, Councilmember Mayer, Councilmember Salerno, Councilmember Smith, Trustee Clark, Trustee Ruggiero and Trustee Porter absent, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

ROBERT M. LARKIN, Chairman
Washoe County Commission

AMY HARVEY, County Clerk
and Clerk of the Board of
County Commissioners

ATTEST:

ROBERT A. CASHELL, Mayor
City of Reno

LYNNETTE R. JONES, City Clerk
City of Reno

ATTEST:

GENO MARTINI, Mayor
City of Sparks

LINDA K. PATTERSON, City Clerk
City of Sparks

ATTEST:

BARBARA PRICE, Board of Trustees
President, Washoe County School District

JONNIE PULLMAN, Clerk
Washoe County School District

*Minutes Prepared by Lisa McNeill,
Washoe County Deputy Clerk*