

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

TUESDAY

8:30 A.M.

MAY 3, 2010

PRESENT:

Bonnie Weber, Washoe County Commission Vice Chairperson*

Bob Larkin, Washoe County Commissioner

Kitty Jung, Washoe County Commissioner

Robert A. Cashell, City of Reno, Mayor

David Aiazzi, Reno City Councilmember

Jessica Sferrazza, Reno City Councilmember*

Sharon Zadra, Reno City Councilmember

Geno Martini, City of Sparks, Mayor

Mike Carrigan, Sparks City Councilmember

Julia Ratti, Sparks City Councilmember

Phil Salerno, Sparks City Councilmember

Ron Schmitt, Sparks City Councilmember

Ron Smith, Sparks City Councilmember

Barbara Clark, Washoe County School District (WCSD) Board of Trustees, President

Estela LeVario Gutierrez, WCSD Board of Trustees, Vice President

Scott Kelley, WCSD Board of Trustees Member

Barbara McLaury, WCSD Board of Trustees Member

Ken Grein, WCSD Board of Trustees Member

Nancy Hollinger, WCSD Board of Trustees Member

Dan Carne, WCSD Board of Trustees Member

ABSENT:

David Humke, Washoe County Commission Chairman

John Breternitz, Washoe County Commissioner

Dwight Dortch, Reno City Councilmember

Dan Gustin, Reno City Councilmember

Pierre Hascheff, Reno City Councilmember

The Commission and Councils convened at 8:31 a.m. in joint session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada, with Mayor Cashell presiding. Also present were Washoe County Clerk Amy Harvey, Washoe County Manager Katy Simon, Washoe County Legal Counsel Melanie Foster, Reno City Clerk Lynette Jones, Reno City Manager Donna

Dreska, Reno City Attorney John Kadlic, Sparks City Clerk Linda Patterson, Sparks City Manager Shaun Carey, Sparks City Attorney Chet Adams, WCSD Superintendant Heath Morrison, and WCSD Legal 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 following business was conducted:

10-365 AGENDA ITEM 3

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 are to be addressed to the Chair of the meeting and to the Reno and Sparks City Councils, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees and the Washoe County Commission as a whole.”

Garth Elliott suggested the County could save a great deal of money through volunteerism, particularly if the volunteers were all united under one group.

***8:33 a.m.** Commissioner Weber arrived at the meeting, which resulted in a quorum for the Washoe County Commission.

Sam Dehne said more people should attend local government meetings.

10-366 AGENDA ITEM 5

Agenda Subject: “Update on the Status of the Sierra Tahoe Center for Arts and Technology Project. (WCSD)”

***8:44 a.m.** Councilmember Sferrazza arrived at the meeting, which resulted in a quorum for the Reno City Council.

Dr. Steven Hull, Chief Communications and Public Affairs Officer for the Washoe County School District (WCSD), conducted a PowerPoint presentation that was placed on file with the Clerk. He explained the Sierra Tahoe Center for Arts and Technology Project was designed by the Youth Services Development Group (YSDG), a coalition of over 50 community groups and organizations, to address the needs of youth and young adults who were not being served. He said the YSDG was led by County Manager Katy Simon and by Mike Pomi, former Director of Washoe County Juvenile Services and current Executive Director of the Children’s Cabinet. The Group was initiated following a January 2007 presentation about the Strickland Project in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The focus of the proposed Sierra Tahoe Center would be to ensure that young adults had a decent job, were connected to social systems, and had a network to allow them to be stable, economically viable and contributing members of the community by the time they were 25 years old. He noted research out of Stanford University found that youth who were not connected by age 25 tended to become burdens on society.

Dr. Hull indicated data from the 2008 *Ready for Life* study was used to select the most vulnerable youth as targets for the local program, including high school dropouts, pregnant or parenting teens, youth involved in the juvenile justice system, and youth involved in the foster care system. He talked about the model used by Bill Strickland, which used arts and technology to engage people ages 14 through 24 in a school learning environment. He pointed out the National Center for Arts and Technology combined world class arts programs for high school students with workforce programs to connect those over the age of 18 with their business communities. Other centers based on the same model were molded to their particular communities and used internships to get young people working on business quality projects while they attended school. He stated students would attend the Sierra Tahoe Center part time while remaining in their home high schools. The program would provide job development and training for 18- to 24-year-olds, and connect them to the community's workforce needs.

Dr. Hull said the Sierra Tahoe Center would require a new or renovated building at a location where at-risk youth could walk in and could rely on the bus service for access. He emphasized the Strickland model was not a social services agency. Students were expected to show up on time, and to be ready for work and training. He indicated Mr. Strickland involved himself in the development of each local program to ensure quality control and to help establish the board of directors. A fee of \$150,000 would bring him to the community for 12 to 18 months, and he would stay with the program for up to three years. He stated the WCSD contributed \$75,000, and \$40,000 was contributed by Luther Mack, Bob Lissner and the Community Services Agency. Another \$30,000 still had to be raised to begin the first phase of the program. Phase I would include a feasibility study and determine facility needs. Phase II would involve more fundraising and would incorporate planning among the partners, staffing, and opening the Sierra Tahoe Center. Each phase was expected to take 12 to 18 months.

There was no public comment and no action was taken on this item.

10-367 AGENDA ITEM 4

Agenda Subject: “Review and discussion of the Washoe County School District Strategic Planning Process and future directions. (WCSD) *This item was continued from the February 1, 2010 Joint meeting.*”

Heath Morrison, Superintendent of the Washoe County School District (WCSD), conducted a PowerPoint presentation that was placed on file with the Clerk. He stated the WCSD was dedicated to being a leader in educational reform for the State of Nevada and across the Country. He indicated an ambitious agenda had been developed with the ultimate goal of getting all 64,000 children in the WCSD on a path to high school graduation. He noted a lot of time was spent to develop a plan and to define success as graduating students who were college and career ready. Dr. Morrison described the community outreach that had taken place over the previous year. He commended the Board of Trustees for their courage, focus and direction. He said a

preeminent facilitator had been engaged to help the WCSD School Board craft its vision, mission, core beliefs and direction.

Dr. Morrison talked about a federal *Race to the Top* grant application that would set the direction for educational reform in all of Nevada's 17 school districts. He indicated many of the State's reform efforts were patterned after Washoe County. He noted change was coming from the highest levels of the federal government and was also motivated by community expectations. He said there was an increased awareness that the health of public education was symbiotic with the health of a community. He stated the reality of fewer economic resources required a different approach. He indicated he was honored to be one of 28 people serving on a Blue Ribbon Task Force to help the State Department of Education with its *Race to the Top* application.

Dr. Morrison observed Nevada's graduation rate had been above the national average several years ago but was now lagging seriously behind. He identified some of the economic benefits associated with improved graduation rates. He said Nevada had received the lowest rating in the nation on a comprehensive study called the *Chance for Success*. The study's ratings were based on factors such as state commitment to parent education, family income, preschool enrollment, National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) scores, and overall employment conditions.

Dr. Morrison talked about the 2010-11 budget shortfall that had grown from \$33 million to \$37 million for the WCSD. He indicated \$11 million was saved thanks to contract concessions from the District's five employee associations. He listed other reductions that were proposed to the Board of Trustees, including the largest Central Services reduction in the District's history. He said it had been particularly difficult to recommend increased class sizes for grades one, two and three. The increase of two students per teacher was expected to save \$6 million but would also result in the loss of 94 teaching positions. Dr. Morrison pointed out the State was facing a \$3.4 billion shortfall during the next legislative session. If lawmakers proposed cuts as the only budget solution, the WCSD would face a \$90 million cut for fiscal year 2011-12 and that would be in addition to any reductions in local revenues. He said the impact of such a scenario could include the loss of 1,200 teachers and 600 support staff, deep cuts in music, arts and physical education, an increase of one mile in the student walk zone, and the need to look for even further reductions.

Dr. Morrison emphasized the community would achieve its best return on investment by focusing on several areas of educational reform. These areas included an excellent principal at every school and an excellent teacher in every classroom, engaging parents as true partners, and establishing professional learning communities at each of the 94 public schools and eight charter schools. He displayed a pyramid to illustrate the traditional way of organizing school districts. It showed the Board of Trustees and the Superintendent at the top, and students at the bottom. He stated reforms would flip the pyramid, push more essential services out to the schools, and place support and resources directly in the classroom where they could have the most impact.

Dr. Morrison said he was extremely proud of the Pathway model that defined student success and set targets for all students at all levels in all of the schools. He compared the Pathway to a game for getting students from pre-K to graduation. He indicated some parents understood the rules of the game and could actually change the rules to give their children more advantage. Some parents knew some of the rules but struggled to succeed, and some parents did not know there was a game. He noted this was the reason only 50 percent of students in the State were graduating from high school.

Dr. Morrison identified some of the changes that would take place in the WCSD. He stated schools would be supervised based on four performance zones rather than six geographic zones. An area superintendant tasked with reaching the Pathway targets would lead each performance zone. Schools that reached their performance targets would be placed into a fifth autonomous zone, and would enjoy more empowerment. He indicated grants and earmarks would be used to push resources out to support the schools. He said a dashboard would be available on the WCSD website to show parents and community members which targets were being successfully met, which were not, and what was being done about it. He indicated the curriculum would be focused on rigorous expectations and would be built around new national standards that were set at an AP/IB level (Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate). There would be increased commitment to pre-K programs and full-day kindergarten. He pointed out \$17 was saved in future social services needs for every \$1 invested in early childhood programs. Dr. Morrison predicted a greater investment in the creative recovery of students who had fallen behind, as well as greater opportunities for career academies and programs to keep students engaged and in school, and to get them graduated. He said the hiring of principals and teachers would focus on attitude in order to find those who would never give up, who would work to learn the skills they did not yet have, and who would commit to a 110-percent effort every day. He indicated the evaluation systems for school principals and Central Services personnel would be aligned to the Pathway and tied to the success of individuals as well as the success of the District. He stated new levels of parent engagement would be measured rather than parent involvement.

Commissioner Weber asked what the maximum class size would be for each grade level as a result of the changes. Dr. Morrison indicated there was a maximum class size set by Nevada statute for grades one, two and three. During the Special Session, the Legislature granted an increase of two students in the maximum class size. He noted there were no statutory class sizes established for other grade levels, but the District tried to maintain student:teacher ratios of 27:1 in the high schools, 26:1 in the middle schools, and 25:1 or 26:1 in the fourth/fifth/sixth grades. Commissioner Weber wondered if there were classrooms that could hold a larger number of students. Dr. Morrison acknowledged there would be facility and technology issues, and indicated the District would face them the best way they could.

Commissioner Larkin questioned whether there were other legislative strangleholds that needed to be lifted. He asked what the three governing bodies could do to assist the WCSD. Dr. Morrison said the District was looking at mandates to determine which ones enhanced performance pathways and which ones restricted them. He noted

there were some unfunded mandates put into place with the best of intentions that were not accomplishing their original objectives. For example, every school library was required to have a copy of the *Nevada Educational Code* but no funding was provided to pay for them. He stated the District was engaging State lawmakers as well as the individuals who advocated on behalf of the Trustees. Commissioner Larkin requested that a list of such items be brought to a future Joint Meeting.

Councilmember Aiazzi wondered what would happen if the Legislature reduced the District's budget by \$90 million. Dr. Morrison suggested \$3.4 billion in State budget cuts would force questions about the return on investment and what would be left as a State. He referred to a recent article in the *Wall Street Journal* that identified Nevada as having the lowest commitment to central government services in the nation, despite not being one of the poorest states. He indicated it was his belief that better public education could be one of the solutions to the horrific economic crisis. He observed northern Nevada was a great community and a beautiful place to live, but poor government services was a big deterrent to bringing new companies into the region. He said the WCSD would do its part and was ramping up its game to get better results. However, he cautioned the budget cuts could reach a point where the conversation shifted from increased educational productivity to high-priced daycare. He hoped the State would not address its shortfall with cuts alone.

Given the concern about the State taking dollars from the local governments, Councilmember Aiazzi recommended the Board, Councils and Commission invite all of the candidates for State office to a forum where they could talk about how they planned to solve the problems. He noted there were groups of people who said no new taxes, but there seemed to be no ideas about how to shift around the current taxes or how to deal with the budget impacts.

Councilmember Smith remarked that a 50 percent high school graduation rate was staggering. He asked when students became disconnected and what could be done about it. Dr. Morrison said students began to disconnect in the third grade. He characterized kindergarten through second grade as the magical early childhood years when all of the kids were engaged and learning. The beginnings of a divide could be seen in the third grade when more comprehension of different subjects was expected and the level of rigor increased. Dr. Morrison explained the achievement gap was seen nationwide but was accelerated in Nevada because there was no commitment to early childhood education. He stated pre-K education and full-day kindergarten provided a foundation to sustain students on the Pathway throughout their educational careers, particularly those who were impacted by poverty, mobility or language barriers. He stated the achievement gap existed before students set foot in a kindergarten classroom, but the disadvantages grew more challenging and the gap widened for those who had no early foundation. He indicated a three-month summer vacation also caused students to lose a lot of what they were taught each year. Even at a time of shrinking revenues, he said an aggressive approach to grants and federal earmarks would help the WCSD to amp up its commitment to early childhood education. Councilmember Smith wondered how 50 percent compared to the rest of the Country. Based on the number of students who

entered ninth grade and graduated in the twelfth grade, Dr. Morrison replied the State was at 50 percent, Washoe County was at 55 percent, and most large urban school districts in the Country hovered around 52 or 53 percent. He noted the nation's capital was at about 17 or 18 percent. He added the goal was not just to get more students to graduate, but to get them ready for a skilled career, entry into college, or entry into the military without the need for basic academic training.

Councilmember Sferrazza questioned how much money the State was losing in federal funds because it did not fund educational services to a certain level. Dr. Morrison indicated he did not have an exact figure but could share examples of where such impacts were felt. He stated Title I funds were designated for students impacted by poverty and represented one of the largest blocks of money coming to each state from the federal government. He observed the number of students impacted by poverty in Washoe County had risen exponentially. He noted Nevada received a disproportionately smaller share of Title I funds when compared to Massachusetts. The funding formulas included accelerator funds that resulted in more dollars if the federal government deemed there was an appropriate State funding level for K-12 education. On that basis, Dr. Morrison stated Nevada and many other western states received a smaller percentage of Title I funds. He said he was proud of the lawmakers who showed courage and changed the law that was prohibiting the State from applying for *Race to the Top*. The previous law did not allow a teacher's evaluation to be tied to student performance. However, a 6.9 percent decrease in funding for K-12 education placed the State in jeopardy of getting the grant because one of the criteria said a state could not have less commitment to its educational funding when compared with the previous year. He expressed concern that access to federal funds would become more competitive and the State was entering the competition at a disadvantage. He suggested Nevada could begin to see fewer federal dollars going forward, even though it was already receiving less than its fair share.

Councilmember Sferrazza said it would be helpful to know what legislative changes the WCSD was looking for. Dr. Morrison agreed the District could provide such information. He noted the *Race to the Top* application could mean \$175 million to Nevada over the next four years if it was awarded. He asked the two city mayors to put forward a letter of recommendation and support for Nevada's *Race to the Top* application. Mayor Cashell agreed the local economy could not be diversified until the educational system was upgraded. He said Dr. Morrison and the Board of Trustees were on the right track, and the two mayors would sign a letter of support.

Councilmember Sferrazza wondered when the Blue Ribbon Task Force would issue its recommendations. Dr. Morrison explained the first charge of the Task Force was to assist with the *Race to the Top* application. He indicated State reforms were embedded in the application, which was due in June 2010. He noted there was a website for the Task Force.

There was no public comment and no action was taken on this item.

Agenda Subject: “Staff Report: Discussion and potential direction to staff regarding the Community Assistance Center and approval as to form for renewal of cooperative agreement. (Reno, Sparks, Washoe County)”

Maureen McKissick, Grant and Fund Development Manager for the City of Reno, explained staff was directed to come back with additional information, creative ideas, and options for sustaining the 2010-11 budget of the Community Assistance Center (CAC) at the Joint Meeting on March 30, 2010. She conducted a PowerPoint presentation, which was placed on file with the Clerk.

Ms. McKissick stated previous budget direction had included elimination of the evening meal, reduction in funding for the Resource Center, retention of private security, and continued services for a cold-weather overflow shelter. She reported that two nonprofit organizations had come together with a plan to provide evening meals. She indicated maintenance of the remaining services would require approximately \$1,998,780 to support the CAC’s 2010-11 operating budget. She presented two budget options. Option 1 was essentially a recap of what was presented at the March 2010 meeting. Although staff had been very creative in looking at resources and revenue (see details in the staff report), she noted Option 1 still left a budget gap ranging from \$444,340 to \$481,563 for 2010-11. Ms. McKissick thanked the City and County Managers for coming up with the proposal in Option 2 to create dedicated funding through reallocation of property taxes from each of the entities. She stated the proposed commitments translated to an operating budget of \$1,970,000 for 2010-11. She anticipated staff could find ways to fill the budget gap of just under \$30,000 that still remained. She requested direction from the elected bodies to proceed with Option 1 or Option 2, to make subsequent revisions to the Cooperative Agreement, and to approve the budget allocations and the Amended Cooperative Agreement.

Mayor Cashell invited the nonprofit representatives to talk about their plans for evening meal service. He expressed his gratitude to Leo McFarland, President/CEO of the Volunteers of America (VOA), and Rick Redding, Executive Director of the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission (RSGM). Mr. Redding said his organization had the resources to provide evening meals for everyone on the CAC campus. He indicated he was currently working with the VOA to establish an orderly process for serving the meals. He stated the RSGM would work with the Northern Nevada Food Bank and others to make sure there was enough food on hand to serve an extra 300 to 400 meals each night. He noted the RSGM had been providing meals for years and wanted to help the community. Mr. McFarland observed there would be a significant upgrade in the quality of the meal. He explained the evening meal for the past year and a half had consisted of a bologna sandwich, fruit and chips. Between the efforts of St. Vincent’s Dining Room during the day and the RSGM at night, he stated each and every person served could be sustained in a significant way. He emphasized there was less of a drain on the community when people were cared for and could eat well enough to avoid

becoming ill. He said he and Mr. Redding were ecstatic about the relationship and were going to ensure the community could still volunteer to help serve meals.

Councilmember Sferrazza commented that 50 vouchers for homeless veterans had recently been allocated to the Reno Housing Authority (RHA). She asked if staff was working with the RHA. Ms. McKissick replied staff continued to collaborate with the RHA and with the Veterans Administration (VA).

Councilmember Sferrazza wondered about the potential implementation of fees for those who could afford them. Although it remained a possibility for the future, Ms. McKissick said the staff assessment was that it was premature to institute fees because of the impact to staffing and the cost to do it properly. Kevin Schiller, Director of Social Services for Washoe County, indicated he researched the fee for service issue with jurisdictions in New York and Hawaii. He noted the jurisdictions used the fees to promote a more rapid time to independence. They saw an eventual long-term cost reduction because clients were engaged and were also introduced to resources that were less dependent on the shelter. He stated additional staff support was required to manage a sliding fee scale, conduct eligibility determinations, and collect the fees.

Councilmember Sferrazza asked if staff was recommending Option 2. Ms. McKissick requested a determination as to which option staff should pursue. She pointed out staff was scheduled to go before their respective governing bodies in about one week and needed immediate direction in order to move forward.

Katy Simon, County Manager, emphasized it was important for staff to come together over the next year to develop a strategic plan. She noted the County staff was recommending the transfer of 1/2-cent from the Child Protective Services fund and 1/2-cent from the Indigent Tax Levy. She stated both funds were restricted and many things could happen if the State Legislature redirected pennies from the tax rate. She cautioned the elected officials against thinking of the funds as a permanent solution prior to any actions that might take place during the 2011 Legislative Session.

Mayor Cashell agreed with Ms. Simon. He suggested the governing bodies needed to have some flexibility in where the funds were found, with the goal of working toward a permanent solution. He supported Option 2.

Councilmember Sferrazza indicated she was supportive but wanted to look at the funding as part of the overall budget. She noted Reno's 1/2-cent commitment was all that was left under the existing tax cap. She requested staff presentation about Reno's essential services, and questioned whether existing funds were being redirected or new taxes were being levied. Donna Dreska, Reno City Manager, clarified 1/2-cent would not use the total amount the City was able to raise. She said the options for coming up with an equivalent amount would have to be explored and discussed by the Council.

Mayor Martini agreed Option 2 was the way to go. He asked if the \$100,000 commitment from Sparks had been included in the City's budget. Shaun Carey,

Sparks City Manager, replied that it had been included in the 2010-11 budget and did not represent a tax increase. He stated the funds represented a reallocation of existing equivalent revenues from the City of Sparks.

Councilmember Sferrazza said she wanted to make it clear that Option 2 did not represent a property tax increase for the City of Reno. Mayor Cashell agreed the commitment was for an amount equivalent to 1/2-cent and would be found somewhere in the budget. Councilmember Zadra observed that allocation from the property tax would suggest permanence, so the Reno City Council's action should not reflect a property tax increase.

Councilmember Sferrazza questioned whether funds could be bonded for the CAC. She noted the State could not redirect bond funds once they were encumbered and pledged. Ms. Simon indicated that bonds were typically used over a longer term for capital projects such as constructing a building. She said operation of the CAC would not be an eligible bond use and money could not be borrowed for operations. She advised the elected bodies to be careful about committing funds just for the purpose of keeping them locked up and away from the State Legislature. She stated staff would continue to look at all possible sources as a strategic plan was developed over the next year.

On behalf of the Reno City Council, on motion by Councilmember Aiazzi, seconded by Councilmember Sferrazza, which motion duly carried with Councilmembers Dortch, Gustin and Hascheff absent, staff was directed to proceed with Option 2 as shown on pages 6 and 7 of the staff report. It was further noted that part of the commitment was based on an amount equivalent to 1/2-cent of property tax, but the Council could allocate funds from somewhere else in its budget.

On behalf of the Sparks City Council, on motion by Councilmember Ratti, seconded by Councilmember Smith, which motion duly carried, staff was directed to proceed with Option 2 as shown on pages 6 and 7 of the staff report. It was further noted that the commitment was based on an amount equivalent to 1/2-cent of property tax, but the Council could allocate funds from somewhere else in its budget.

On behalf of the Washoe County Commission, on motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Larkin, which motion duly carried with Chairman Humke and Commissioner Breternitz absent, staff was directed to proceed with Option 2 as shown on pages 6 and 7 of the staff report. It was further noted that the funds were to be specifically dedicated for the provision of services at the Community Assistance Center.

10-369 AGENDA ITEM 8

Agenda Subject: "Staff Report: Status update on Human Resources/Information Technology/Purchasing Project, discussion and possible direction to staff. (Reno)"

Rick Vandenberg, Communication and Technology Director for the City of Reno, provided some background on the shared services projects. At the direction of the Shared Services Committee, he indicated staff released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a possible consultant to move the consolidation process forward. Staff reviewed ten proposals and recommended Matrix Consulting to look at the feasibility of consolidating Information Technology (IT), Human Resources (HR), and/or Purchasing between Washoe County and the City of Reno. He noted the City of Sparks and the Washoe County School District had opted out of the process. On April 13, 2010, the Washoe County Commission approved \$44,000 to fund half of the consultant's fees for phase I of the project. Mr. Vandenberg explained the Reno City Council did not approve funding on April 14, 2010, but instead directed staff to revisit the initial staff reports. The Shared Services Committee subsequently directed staff to return to the Reno City Council for reconsideration. Mr. Vandenberg said the item was placed on the agenda to open up discussion as to how staff should proceed.

Councilmember Sferrazza recalled discussion during the Council presentation that different software was used by each jurisdiction and this made it too costly and unrealistic to implement IT consolidation in the short term. She expressed concern about moving forward with a study the parties could not afford to implement rather than working on things that could actually be accomplished. Mr. Vandenberg stated the substantial investments in IT technology did not preclude the City and the County from attaining some cost savings by merging technology over the course of time. For example, he pointed out it would probably take five to seven years to achieve savings in moving toward a single platform to support payroll.

Mayor Cashell asked about Purchasing or HR. Mr. Vandenberg indicated the City and County Purchasing Departments already joined in bids and achieved savings through the Western States Contracting Alliance (WSCA).

Councilmember Zadra observed she and Councilmember Hascheff, Reno's representatives to the Shared Services Committee, had both been unable to attend the April 14, 2010 City Council meeting. She suggested their input might have brought a different frame of reference to the discussion. She explained the Committee was attempting to address the three areas and understood IT savings would take place in the future. She said it was necessary to endorse the concept so that daily and monthly purchases and operating decisions could be made in keeping with the spirit that services would be united at some point in the future. She pointed out the Committee had compiled an alternative list of immediate opportunities that would keep things moving forward. Mr. Vandenberg was not sure if he had a copy of the alternate list.

County Manager Katy Simon noted that everyone had undergone significant staff reductions. She said County staff believed a consultant would provide the enhanced professional capacity to keep things on track, independent and objective, as well as to help point out potential problems and prepare an implementation. She acknowledged the significant technology investments made by both entities, but suggested at some point the parties would need to put a stake in the ground and say

‘going forward we will not buy new things and we will not create enhancements without making sure it will enable us to work together better.’ On the Purchasing side, Ms. Simon explained it was less about access to joinder bids and more about unified management of the procurement process. She observed there were some opportunities to do things very quickly with respect to HR.

Mayor Cashell said he wanted everyone to be able to live with whatever a consultant might find before \$80,000 was spent.

Mr. Vandenberg indicated the list referenced by Councilmember Zadra included risk management, reprographics, business licensing, recreation programming, senior programming, and wastewater. He stated there had also been some discussion about regional consolidation of things like airports and the Regional Transportation Commission. With respect to recreation and senior programming, Councilmember Zadra suggested items that had taken the biggest hit in each entity’s operating budget should be addressed first so that fewer community services were lost.

Commissioner Jung noted the risk management position had been discussed at the most recent Shared Services Committee meeting. She said it was her understanding staff was directed to address the possibility and to have legal issues evaluated. As another example of immediate opportunities, she stated the reprographics division of the City of Reno had a person who could do the copy press but no one who could do design work. The Committee thought the two entities might work together when making decisions about budget cuts. She indicated she supported the hiring of an objective consultant and thought it was unrealistic to ask staff to find ways to make their jobs extinct. She emphasized the savings had to be truly achievable, and consolidation for consolidation’s sake was not the Committee’s goal. She noted such changes were not going to happen at the flip of a switch but were more likely to be in the form of future cost avoidance for investments and capital improvements.

Mayor Cashell indicated the discussion would be brought back before the Reno City Council.

There was no public comment and no action was taken on this item.

10-370 AGENDA ITEM 7

Agenda Subject: “Member/Staff announcements, requests for information and topics for future agendas.”

Commissioner Jung requested support from the elected officials for a regional approach to job creation. She suggested a committee of staff and elected officials to accelerate processes and leverage the disparate job creation funds being received by the local municipalities and nonprofit organizations. Councilmember Schmitt observed each of the governing bodies funded the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN), whose primary mission was job creation. He wondered if

Commissioner Jung was suggesting the funds be redirected. Commissioner Jung emphasized she was not criticizing EDAWN's performance and was not recommending their funds be withdrawn. She said everyone should be in the same room and EDAWN should be on the committee as well.

In response to the call for public comment, Gary Schmidt agreed with Councilmember Aiazzi's suggestion to hold a forum where questions could be posed to the candidates running for elected offices.

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10:08 p.m. There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mayor Martini and was seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

DAVID E. HUMKE, 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 CLARK, Board of Trustees
President, Washoe County School District

KEN GREIN, Clerk
Washoe County School District

*Minutes Prepared by
Lisa McNeill, Deputy County Clerk*