

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

MONDAY

10:00 A.M.
SPECIAL MEETING

MAY 16, 2011

PRESENT:

John Breternitz, Chairman
Bonnie Weber, Vice Chairperson
Bob Larkin, Commissioner*
Kitty Jung, Commissioner
David Humke, Commissioner*

Amy Harvey, County Clerk
Katy Simon, County Manager
Melanie Foster, Legal Counsel

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:06 a.m. in special session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerk called the roll and the Board conducted the following business:

County Manager Katy Simon stated: "The Chairman and the Board of County Commissioners intend that their proceedings should demonstrate the highest levels of decorum, civic responsibility, efficiency and mutual respect between citizens and their government. The Board respects the right of citizens to present differing opinions and views, even criticism, but our democracy cannot function effectively in an environment of personal attacks, slander, threats of violence, and willful disruption. To that end, the Nevada Open Meeting Law provides the authority for the Chair of a public body to maintain the decorum and to declare a recess if needed to remove any person who is disrupting the meeting, and notice is hereby provided of the intent of this body to preserve the decorum and remove anyone who disrupts the proceedings."

Commissioner Weber participated in the meeting by telephone.

11-422 AGENDA ITEM 3 – PUBLIC COMMENT

Agenda Subject: "Public Comment. Comment heard under this item will be limited to two minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the Commission agenda. The Commission will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to two minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the Commission as a whole."

Guy Felton said he was a candidate for the United States Congress. He stated the decorum statement was unconstitutional, and he requested it be agendized for an in-depth discussion.

Sam Dehne discussed the budget situation and the local media.

Thomas Dunn stated on April 22, 2011, the Reno Fire Department lost Firefighter Michael Lackore after a brief illness. He said Firefighter Lackore served the citizens of Washoe County for almost 12 years and was recognized for his work during the Mizpah Fire in 2007. He thanked the Sparks Fire Department, the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD), and the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District (NLTFPD) for providing engines and personnel to cover the Reno Fire Department's stations, so Reno personnel could attend the memorial service on Sunday May 1, 2011. He said local firefighters took care of the public and each other, and during a time of great need proved boundaries and jurisdictions did not matter.

10:12 a.m. The Board convened as the Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD) Board of Fire Commissioners and the Board of County Commissioners (BCC).

***10:21 a.m.** The Board adjourned as the SFPD Board of Fire Commissioners and convened as the South Truckee Meadows General Improvement District (STMGID) Board of Trustees. Commissioner Larkin arrived during the STMGID meeting.

***10:23 a.m.** The Board adjourned as the STMGID Board of Trustees and convened as the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Board of Fire Commissioners. Commissioners Humke arrived during the TMFPD meeting.

10:29 a.m. The Board adjourned as the TMFPD Board of Fire Commissioners and reconvened as the BCC with all members present.

PUBLIC HEARING

11-423 AGENDA ITEM 7

Agenda Subject: "Washoe County – Tentative Budget, as well as possible changes to adoption of the Final Budget, for Fiscal Year 2011/12."

10:29 a.m. Chairman Breternitz opened the public hearing.

Katy Simon, County Manager, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation regarding the process used in developing the Washoe County Fiscal Year 2011/12 budget, the plan for reducing the budget, the updated budget deficit, labor cost savings, the departmental targets and budget reduction plans, and the recommended General Fund budget.

She noted the final budget anticipated reaching an agreement with the County's employee organizations. She said besides the departments meeting their targets based on the definition of core, non-core, and administrative services; the departments were also working towards alternative funding levels based on 90 and 75 percent of the recommended budget.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

Chairman Breternitz said he thought the concept of authorized positions had been eliminated. Ms. Simon stated as budgeted positions became vacant during the course of a year, those positions were evaluated as to whether or not the position needed to be filled to meet a department's service requirements. She said the budgeted positions were the only positions that remained on the books, and all of the unfunded positions were eliminated.

Commissioner Weber said it was important for the Board to take a budget position. Chairman Breternitz agreed. He stated Darin Conforti, Budget Manager, and John Sherman, Finance Director, had been working hard on a complex budget, and the information they presented was very clear.

Commissioner Jung said the original labor cost savings was 13.8 million, which dropped by \$2 million. She asked Ms. Simon to explain the drop for the public record. Ms. Simon said health insurance costs had been forecast to increase 12 percent, but the Insurance Negotiating Committee negotiated a zero percent increase. She said a small amount of the decrease was due to having fewer employees, but a majority of the decrease was due to the redesign of the plan.

Commissioner Jung said she was opposed to adopting the budget due to the non-core services classification applied to the Washoe County Libraries. She stated no one else provided the same services to the community, and the ability to rebound economically was closely tied to the ability of having libraries open. She said the libraries were General Educational Development (GED) testing sites. She stated a majority of jobs required applying electronically and many employers would no longer accept paper applications, and libraries were the only place many people could go to access the Internet. She thanked the budget team, the Manager, and the Commissioners for their hard work, but she could not approve the budget with a clear conscience.

Chairman Breternitz agreed the parks and library programs were important, but he had been unable to find a viable alternative to making the reductions to those programs. He said because there was only so much revenue available, it would mean taking money from somewhere else to increase their funding. He felt the targets were reasonably evenhanded, and he supported the budget even though the cuts were unfortunate.

On motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Humke, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Jung voting “no,” it was ordered the Washoe County Fiscal Year 2011/12 Budget be approved and its transmittal to the State of Nevada be authorized.

Chairman Breternitz closed the public hearing.

Ms. Simon thanked the Finance team for the tremendous job they did. She also thanked the Department Heads and the employees who had come together to make the budget happen.

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10:54: a.m. There being no further business to discuss, on motion by Commissioner Humke, seconded by Commissioner Larkin, the meeting was adjourned.

JOHN BRETERNITZ, Chairman
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

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

*Minutes Prepared by:
Jan Frazzetta, Deputy County Clerk*