

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

APRIL 21, 2015

PRESENT:

**Marsha Berkbigler, Chair**  
**Kitty Jung, Vice Chair**  
**Vaughn Hartung, Commissioner**  
**Jeanne Herman, Commissioner**  
**Bob Lucey, Commissioner**

**Nancy Parent, County Clerk**  
**Kevin Schiller, Assistant County Manager**  
**Dave Watts-Vial, Legal Counsel**

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:48 a.m. in regular 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:

**15-0297      AGENDA ITEM 3 – PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Agenda Subject:** “Public Comment. Comment heard under this item will be limited to three 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 three minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the Commission as a whole.”

George Newell spoke about the Warm Springs Specific Plan and the return of the developers’ funds, stating those funds were never placed in an interest-bearing bank account as called for six times in the contract. He stated it was time to end this charade by putting it on the April 28th agenda for discussion and action. He said the developers were insisting the County pay them their funds immediately from the General Fund, along with any attorney fees, and forego the 1 percent administration fee due to the funds being grossly mismanaged. He said once that was done they would assign their rights over to the County. He said if this was not done, the County would immediately suffer the consequences for violating the contract. He stated they did not want to hurt the County by initiating a lawsuit for damages, filing a complaint with the Attorney General per Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 228.177 and 222.210, and filing possible criminal charges for fraud. He said staff had ample time to provide an accounting, because it had been over nine months since the first meeting with Bill Whitney, Planning and Development Division Director. He stated the excuse was there were concerns there could be legal problems, but there were none. He said since the funds were never in an interest-bearing bank account, he had to research the prime interest rates from 1990 to 2015. Based on that research, he computed his funds should be \$154,000 instead of

\$83,000. He was demanding he be paid the \$154,000 and \$6,938.17 in attorney fees, which was as of April 17th.

Garth Elliott said he was wearing his watermelon shirt, which meant it was time to start planting. He stated he was thankful significant progress had been made getting the Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) back, and there were 10-12 people eager to participate.

Sam Dehne spoke about planting, his support of the Proclamations, the *Reno Gazette-Journal*, and Reno's new Chief of Police.

Cathy Brandhorst spoke of issues of concern to herself.

**15-0298      AGENDA ITEM 4 – ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS**

**Agenda Subject: “Commissioners’/Manager’s announcements, reports/updates from County Commission members concerning various boards/commissions they may be a member of or liaison to. Requests for information, topics for future agendas and any ideas and suggestions for greater efficiency, cost effectiveness and innovation in County government. (No discussion among Commissioners will take place on this item.)”**

Commissioner Lucey said the Reno Transportation Commission (RTC) received the 404 B Permit from the Army Corps of Engineers, which would allow the construction of the Southeast Connector to begin. He stated County staff had been working with the Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) members regarding some issues, and he was waiting to see what the outcome would be. He said he would be holding “Meet the Commissioner” events on Wednesday night and Saturday afternoon at the South Valleys Library.

Commissioner Jung requested an agenda item to assess if there was a need to institute “Meals on Wheels” for dogs. She said delivering meals to citizens prolonged their ability to stay in their homes, as did having a pet, but some seniors were using their meals to feed their dog. She asked if Senior Services, Animal Services, and the Nevada Humane Society (NHS) could assess if there was a need. She requested an update on the Warm Springs issue, because it was time it was settled. She explained the new employees were replacement employees because some programs had been cut to down to the bone. She stated now the County was flat, but that did not mean there was not the natural turnover of employees. She said she asked at the beginning of the year to start celebrating the County's new employees because they liked sharing the video with their families and were proud of having a job at the County.

Commissioner Hartung requested staff look into the speedbumps on Seneca Boulevard, because he had received some calls indicating the speedbumps had not been installed yet, and he wanted to know why. He requested feedback on the Farmer's Market vouchers, and he wanted everyone to know they were available to

seniors through the State. He believed it was time the County started talking publicly about the County's Alzheimer plans.

Commissioner Herman also requested the Warms Springs issue be on the next agenda.

Later in the meeting, Chair Berkbigler said there was legislation, the Beagle bill, which fell in line with what the County was doing with Animal Services. She stated the bill would allow Beagles used for testing to be adopted after the testing was done. She said she would appreciate it if the Commissioners agreed to support that bill.

**15-0299      AGENDA ITEM 5**

**Agenda Subject: "Introduction of new Washoe County Employees."**

Kevin Schiller, Assistant County Manager, had the following employees come forward to the podium to introduce themselves to the Commissioners:

Matt Hodel, Technology Services/Enterprise Infrastructure  
Andrea Esp, Health/Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness  
Heather Kerwin, Health/Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness  
Andy Parmele, Treasurer's Office  
Anita Eaton, Treasurer's Office  
Justin Norton, Comptroller/Accounting Operations  
Veronica Hee-Garcia, Comptroller/Account Operations

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

**15-0300      AGENDA ITEM 6**

**Agenda Subject: "Presentation of Excellence in Public Service Certificates honoring the following Washoe County employees who have completed essential employee development courses."**

Kevin Schiller, Assistant County Manager, recognized the following employees for successful completion of the Excellence in Public Service Certificate Programs administered by the Human Resources Department:

**Promote Yourself!**  
Laura Daniels, WCSO  
Katie Stueve, WCSO

**Essentials of Personal Effectiveness**  
Cassie Donnan, WCSO

**PROCLAMATIONS – AGENDA ITEMS 7A(1) THROUGH 7A(12)**

In response to the call for public comment, Garth Elliot said being an Animal Control Officer was a dangerous job. He discussed what the National Day of Prayer and Older Americans Month meant to him. He stated he supported Sun Valley's community parks and pools and volunteered for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) of Northern Nevada, which he encouraged everyone to do. He said the best thing someone could do for their community was to become a Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) member.

Cathy Brandhorst spoke about issues of concern to herself.

Jenifer Rose said it had been an honor to serve on the Organizational Effectiveness Committee (OEC), and she thanked the Board for appointing her to the OEC. She stated she had learned a lot, including the sheer magnitude of the Commissioner's jobs and all of the things they had to learn. She said it was wonderful to know there were such wonderful people at the County supporting the citizens every day.

**15-0301      AGENDA ITEM 7A(1)**

**Agenda Subject: "Proclamation--April 19 - 25, 2015 as Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week."**

Commissioner Jung read and presented the Proclamation to the Regional Animal Services staff: Amber Ballam, Tim Finnegan, Shannon Arnett, Adrian Segura, Yvonne Shanto, Jana Atkinson, DD Moore, Cindy Doak, Karen Stark, Bobby Smith, and Shayanne Schull.

Commissioner Jung said being an Animal Control Officer was one of the toughest jobs in the County, and she thanked them from the bottom of her heart.

Ms. Schull thanked the Board for recognizing the dedicated professionals behind her, along with those that could not be present today because they were working. She said before she moved here, she met many of the staff and found out some had five, ten, or twenty years of experience with the County and the City of Reno in Animal Services. She stated that told her Washoe County was a great County to work for and had a lot of dedicated professionals working within Regional Animals Services.

Public comments on the Proclamations are located at the beginning of the Proclamations.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7A(1) be adopted.

**15-0302      AGENDA ITEM 7A(2)**

**Agenda Subject: “Proclamation--April 19-25, 2015 as Public Safety Telecommunications Week in Washoe County.”**

Commissioner Lucey read and presented the Proclamation to Clay Griffin, Kavinah Prevost, Joanna Moertbauer, and Jennifer DeLano.

Public comments on the Proclamations are located at the beginning of the Proclamations.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7A(2) be adopted.

**15-0303      AGENDA ITEM 7A(3)**

**Agenda Subject: “Proclamation--April 2015 as National Donate Life Month. (Requested by Commissioner Hartung.)”**

Commissioner Hartung said his daughter had a kidney transplant in 2008 and his wife, Sandra, was the donor. He stated as a result of the transplant, his daughter decided to go into medicine and she graduated from the Stanford Medical School this weekend as a Physician’s Assistant. He read and presented the Proclamation to Zach Hausauer, Donor Network West; John Lilley, Clinical Services Manager; Virginia Reese who was the lifeblood of donations in this area; and the donor families and recipients present.

Mr. Hausauer said it was an important month for organ and tissue donation awareness. He stated Donor Network West was the federally designated organ procurement organization for Washoe County. He stated the most important aspect of what they did was having the ambassadors speak for people becoming organ donors, such as Dorleesa Barmettler whose daughter Makayla died tragically last November and saved many lives through organ and tissues donations. He stated Tracy Copeland and Tammy Nichols were recipients. He said everyone had an opportunity to check yes to be a donor at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) or online at donatelifenv.org. He stated it was critical that people have a conversation with their family members, because the decision to donate would then become their decision. He said it was a personal choice and there was no wrong choice, but choosing to donate could save a lot of people.

Ms. Copeland thanked the Board for recognizing April as National Donate Life Month. She spoke about becoming a liver transplant recipient in 1998; the donor, Terry Lee Snow; and having a new lease on life. She noted over 120,000 people were on the list for an organ and 21 people died every day while waiting. She felt it was her charge to honor the donor family by sharing the need for organ and tissue donations.

Ms. Barmettler said her daughter, Makayla, lost her life four months ago. She stated they donated everything of hers that could be used. She said they did not know how important organ donation was until they were faced with it. She thanked the Board for proclaiming it National Donate Life Month.

Public comments on the Proclamations are located at the beginning of the Proclamations.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7A(3) be adopted.

**15-0304      AGENDA ITEM 7A(4)**

**Agenda Subject: “Proclamation--May 1, 2015 as Keep Kids Alive Drive 25 Day.”**

Commissioner Lucey read and presented the Proclamation to Clara Lawson, Community Services Traffic Engineer.

Ms. Larson encouraged residents and neighborhood associations to participate in this kind of effort to make neighborhoods safe.

Chair Berkbigler said she had seen the yellow child sign asking people to drive 25 miles per hour in a number of places.

Public comments on the Proclamations are located at the beginning of the Proclamations.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7A(4) be adopted.

**15-0305      AGENDA ITEM 7A(5)**

**Agenda Subject: “Proclamation--May 6, 2015 as Washoe County Law Library Day.”**

Commissioner Herman read and presented the Proclamation to Emily Reed, Law Library Program Manager. Ms. Reed thanked the Board for recognizing the Law Library’s hundredth anniversary and in supporting the Law Library. She stated since its opening in 1915, it had been providing the County’s citizens with access to the law. She said the Law Library’s collection included online and print items, and she invited everyone to come to the Law Library to see what it had to offer.

Public comments on the Proclamations are located at the beginning of the Proclamations.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7A(5) be adopted.

**15-0306      AGENDA ITEM 7A(6)**

**Agenda Subject: “Proclamation--May 7, 2015 as National Day of Prayer. (Requested by Commissioner Hartung.)”**

Commissioner Hartung read and presented the Proclamation to Pastor Caesar Mira, Bonnie Weber, and Bob Larkin.

Mr. Larkin thanked Commissioner Hartung for sponsoring the Proclamation. He invited the Commissioners to participate in the National Day of Prayer between Noon and 1:00 p.m. on May 7th. He said Pastor Mira, Lord of Life Church, was this year’s sponsor.

Pastor Mira thanked the Board for the Proclamation. He said when the nation and the world was in turmoil, a prayer was the answer to a lot of things.

Ms. Weber thanked the Board for the Proclamation. She said 11 years ago this month was the first Proclamation, but there was no celebration. She stated this would be the 10th anniversary of holding a celebration at the County Complex, and she invited everyone to attend, including the Commission and all of the County’s staff.

Public comments on the Proclamations are located at the beginning of the Proclamations.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7A(6) be adopted.

**15-0307      AGENDA ITEM 7A(7)**

**Agenda Subject: “Proclamation--May 10 - 16, 2015 as Women’s Lung Health Week.”**

Chair Berkbigler read and presented the Proclamation to Frankie Vigil.

Ms. Vigil thanked the Board for acknowledging that lung cancer was the number one cancer killer of women. She said an inaugural “Lung Force Walk” would be held on Saturday, May 16th at the Reno Aces stadium.

Public comments on the Proclamations are located at the beginning of the Proclamations.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7A(7) be adopted.

**15-0308      AGENDA ITEM 7A(8)**

**Agenda Subject: “Proclamation--May 2015 as National Bike Month and Bicycle Safety Month, and May 9 - 15, 2015 as Bike Week in Washoe County.”**

Commissioner Jung read and presented the Proclamation to Julie Hunter, Health District Senior AQ Specialist–Planning, and MJ Cloud and Yann Ling-Barnes, Truckee Meadows Bicycle Alliance.

Ms. Hunter thanked the Board for recognizing Washoe County’s 15th annual celebration of Bike Week. She said last year over 8,000 miles were logged, which equaled removing 205 cars from the road during that week. She said they were encouraging everybody to log onto bikewashoe.org to log their miles, which helped determine what kind of progress was being made each year, and to see what events were scheduled.

Public comments on the Proclamations are located at the beginning of the Proclamations.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7A(8) be adopted.

**15-0309      AGENDA ITEM 7A(9)**

**Agenda Subject: “Proclamation--May 2015 as Older Americans Month. (Requested by Commissioner Herman.)”**

Commissioner Herman read and presented the Proclamation to Grady Tarbutton, Senior Services Director.

Mr. Tarbutton thanked Dr. Larry Weiss, Center for Healthy Aging and Senior Services Advisory Board Chair, and Wayne Alexander, In Home Services Agency. He said the first Older Americans Month was celebrated in 1963 when one third of the seniors were below the poverty level. He said Meals on Wheels and the other services provided to seniors were started to address the poverty issue. He said the County was facing significant other challenges, such as the aging of the community with over 100,000 people over the age of 60, and Alzheimer’s disease.

Mr. Tarbutton said the booklet before the Board, which was placed on file with the Clerk, contained 90 events and was produced due to the efforts of County staff and the County’s partners. He stated those partners were conducting workshops throughout the community, such as the workshop the Sparks Police Department was doing on protecting people from scams. He said the booklet was available at Washoe County Senior Services, senior centers, city halls, libraries, and on the County’s web site. He noted the opening ceremonies would be held on May 1st and 50 agencies would be

providing information on the services they provided, which was a great opportunity for people to learn about the available resources.

Dr. Weiss thanked the Commissioners for acknowledging the Older Americans Act. He said about 10,000 people turned 65 every day in this country.

Mr. Alexander thanked the Board for everything they did for the seniors in Washoe County.

Public comments on the Proclamations are located at the beginning of the Proclamations.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7A(9) be adopted.

**15-0310      AGENDA ITEM 7A(10)**

**Agenda Subject: “Proclamation--May 2015 as Nevada Wildfire Awareness Month.”**

Commissioner Lucey read and presented the Proclamation to Fire Chief Charles Moore; Amy Ray, Fire Marshal; Ed Smith, University of Nevada, Reno Cooperative Extension Living with Fire Program; and the volunteers who were present.

Mr. Smith said the Program taught Nevada residents to live more safely in wildfire prone areas. He stated the Program’s staff coordinated Wildfire Awareness Month and worked closely with our federal, state, and local fire service partners. He said this year’s theme was “Improve Your Odds – Prepare for Wildfire,” which promoted Nevada’s residents being proactive in addressing the wildfire threat. He stated this year’s educational tool was a deck of playing cards, which had 13 different pre-fire tips printed on the cards for homeowners to implement. He thanked the Board for their support in getting the word out.

Chief Moore said a fire response was not enough when there was a wildfire, there absolutely had to be partnerships with the public in trying to mitigate severe fires.

Chair Berkgigler said the Board was very proud of the both the employed and the volunteer fire departments.

Fire Marshal Ray discussed some of the events happening in the area, which included a fun run at Washoe State Park and an event where residents could exchange junipers and other flammable plants with a replacement plant by using a gift certificate from the Moana Nursery. She said the Nevada Division of Forestry would chip the dropped off plants and haul them away.

Mark Regan, North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District Assistant Fire Marshal, thanked the Board for helping to protect the Lake Tahoe area from wild-land fires. He said they were informed their fuel models were already ahead of where they should be at the end of May. He stated working together with the community and the local fire departments, volunteer and career, would be what would help keep the fires small. He hoped everyone would take part in getting educated on fire safety by attending the events happening. He stated at Lake Tahoe on May 30th, there would be a large evacuation drill, which would involve Animal Services, Washoe County Search and Rescue, Washoe County Sheriff's Office, and quite a few National Guard helicopters. He said he would like to see everyone there.

A gentleman spoke for the volunteers saying they had been trying to prevent fires in Washoe County for the last 40 some years. He said they were still here and would continue to be here.

Public comments on the Proclamations are located at the beginning of the Proclamations.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7A(10) be adopted.

**15-0311      AGENDA ITEM 7A(11)**

**Agenda Subject: "Proclamation--May 2015 as University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Month."**

Commissioner Jung read and presented the Proclamation to the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension's staff: Sarah Chvilicek, Ed Smith, Susan Howe, and Jaime Roice-Gomes. Commissioner Jung said she was a 4-H member from nine years old to 19 years old. She said it was a wonderful experience, which helped develop her speaking skills. She noted the County Commission funded part of the Cooperative Extension.

Ms. Chvilicek said on behalf of Mark Walker, Dean and Director, and Frank Flavin, Area Director, she graciously accepted the Proclamation.

Public comments on the Proclamations are located at the beginning of the Proclamations.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7A(11) be adopted.

**15-0312      AGENDA ITEM 7A(12)**

**Agenda Subject: "Proclamation--April 19 - 25, 2015 as Volunteer Week in Washoe County."**

Commissioner Hartung said the Board often lauded its staff as being its greatest and most important asset, but the volunteers were a close second. He read and presented the Proclamation to the volunteers present.

The volunteers stepped up to the podium and introduced themselves.

Public comments on the Proclamations are located at the beginning of the Proclamations.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7A(12) be adopted.

**12:35 p.m.** The Board recessed.

**12:45 p.m.** The Board reconvened with all members present.

**15-0313 AGENDA ITEM 7B – DONATIONS**

**Agenda Subject:** “Accept cash donations in the amount of [\$9,230.61] for the period of January 1, 2015 through March 31, 2015 and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the appropriate budget adjustments--Social Services. (All Commission Districts.)”

On behalf of the Board, Commissioner Jung thanked the individuals for their donations through Social Services to help children in crisis.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7B be adopted.

**15-0314 AGENDA ITEM 9 – PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Agenda Subject:** “Public Comment. Comment heard under this item will be limited to three 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 three minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the Commission as a whole.”

Cathy Brandhorst spoke about issues of concern to herself.

\* \* \* \* \*

**12:58 p.m.** There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

---

**MARSHA BERKBIGLER**, Chair  
Washoe County Commission

**ATTEST:**

---

**NANCY PARENT**, County Clerk and  
Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

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