

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2016

PRESENT:

Kitty Jung, Chair
Marsha Berkbigler, Commissioner
Vaughn Hartung, Commissioner
Jeanne Herman, Commissioner

Nancy Parent, County Clerk
John Slaughter, County Manager
David Watts-Vial, Legal Counsel

ABSENT:

Bob Lucey, Vice Chair

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:00 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:

16-0811 **AGENDA ITEM 3** Public Comment.

Elise Weatherly swore on her Bible to tell the truth, which she said was the same thing they did in the court system. She spoke about Marvin Neal's dismissal from the Jan Evans Youth Center. She submitted a handout, which was placed on file with the Clerk.

Sam Dehne spoke about patriotism and Levi Hooper's announcement that he would be running for the office of County Commissioner. He played his guitar and sang a patriotic song.

Levi Hooper stated he would be running for a seat on the County Commission. He said he had been homeless for five years and considered himself the voice of the downtrodden.

Doug Busselman, Executive Vice President of the Nevada Farm Bureau, stated the Farm Bureau wished to encourage the Board to take a greater leadership role in the public process necessary to formulate a workable legislative proposal for the Washoe County Economic Development and Conservation Act. He said the Farm Bureau prepared supportive testimony for the Pershing County Landfill that would be heard by the Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee later in the week. The Farm Bureau also attended open houses to publicly formulate the details embodied in the Pershing

County Economic Development and Conservation Act, S.3102; however, they felt the public conversation fell short of the structured system needed for a legitimate collaborative process. He said the Farm Bureau maintained that livestock grazing rights needed to be addressed and was troubled by the lack of official engagement for the tradeoff of proposed wilderness designations. He argued the proposed maps represented the requests of special interest groups with desires for nearly 500,000 acres of designated wilderness and presented areas that were different than the wilderness study areas recognized by the Bureau of Land Management. He encouraged the Board to follow the model set by the Pershing County Commission by offering collaborative ways for public stakeholders to engage in crafting a proposal that would be worthy of support.

16-0812 **AGENDA ITEM 4** Presentation of Excellence in Public Service Certificates honoring the following Washoe County employees who have completed essential employee development courses.

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

Essentials of Personal Effectiveness Certificate Program

Julie Baskins, Health Department

Essentials of High Performing Teams

Alicia Christensen, District Attorney

Chair Jung congratulated the employees and thanked their respective Departments for allowing staff the time to improve their resumes and skills.

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

CONSENT ITEMS 5A THROUGH 5B

16-0813 **5A** Approval of minutes for the Board of County Commissioner's regular meetings of August 9, 2016, August 16, 2016 and August 23, 2016.

16-0814 **5B** Acknowledge receipt of the 34th consecutive annual Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for the County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015. Comptroller. (All Commission Districts.)

Mary Solorzano, Accounting Manager, stated the County had earned the certificate for 34 years running and she was honored to have led the team of professionals who had achieved it. She explained the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) required a great deal more disclosure than a normal financial statement and her team had worked very hard. She introduced the following individuals:

Darlene Delany, Senior Accountant
Robert Andrews, Accounting Manager
Crystal Varnum, Senior Accountant
Asta Dominguez, Senior Accountant
Russ Morgan, Senior Accountant
Joyce Garrett, Accountant II
Marty Williams, Accountant II

Chair Jung thanked the staff in both the Comptroller's Office and the Manager's Office.

There were no public comments on Agenda Items 5A through 5B.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Berkgigler, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Lucey absent, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 5A through 5B be approved.

AGENDA ITEM 6 DONATIONS

16-0815 **6A** Approve the donation of eleven decommissioned ballistic vests [approximate value \$0] to the State of Nevada, Nevada Legislative Police from the Washoe County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

16-0816 **6B** Accept the donation of a 2002 Ford E450 activity bus to Washoe County Senior Services from the Washoe County School District with an [estimated value or \$12,000]; and transfer the vehicle to the Equipment Services Division. Senior Services. (All Commission Districts)

There were no public comments on Agenda Items 6A through 6B.

On motion by Commissioner Berkgigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Lucey absent, it was ordered that Agenda Items 6A through 6B be approved.

AGENDA ITEM 7 PROCLAMATIONS

16-0817 **7A** Proclamation – September 2016 is Hunger Action Month

Chair Jung read and presented the Proclamation to Shane Piccinini, Public Policy advocate for the Food Bank of Northern Nevada. She commented the Food Bank did great work and she encouraged everyone to visit their warehouse at the Tahoe Regional Industrial Center. She spoke about a Facebook challenge which she called the "Reverse Advent Calendar". She explained the idea was to put something in a basket for people in need every day up until December 25th for the purpose of donating the items to

the Food Bank. She challenged her fellow Commissioners to do this during the holiday season.

Mr. Piccinini expressed gratitude for the great relationship the Food Bank had with the County. He noted the Food Bank distributed over 12.7 million pounds of food through their partner agencies as well as through their direct services. He spoke about a new social media campaign which was intended to encourage people to post pictures showing how people could make a difference in the community's food security.

16-0818 **7B** Proclamation – September 2016 is National Preparedness Month.

Commissioner Hartung stated 15 years ago, on September 11th, 2001, the Nation experienced a day of grief, courage and mourning, which had become an important day of remembrance. The date was also a reminder to reflect on preparedness. He read and presented the Proclamation to Aaron Kenneston, Emergency Management Administrator, and Liz Paulsen, Emergency Management Program Assistant.

Mr. Kenneston invited everyone in the County to join in the effort to develop a culture of preparedness. He explained September had been designated as National Preparedness Month in a tradition that dated back to the civil defense days of the 1950's. He stated the government was preparing and he encouraged all citizens to prepare as well.

Chair Jung commented she heard great feedback whenever the emergency system was activated. She said she knew preparedness involved being ready 24/7.

16-0819 **7C** Proclamation – October 12, 2016 is International Walk to School Day.

Commissioner Berkbigler commented one of her favorite activities last year was walking to school with some children. She read and presented the Proclamation to MJ Cloud, Washoe County School Police Officer and Coordinator for the Safe Routes to School.

Officer Cloud said she looked forward to this event every year. She stated walking and bicycling to school was a great way to get healthy, get some fresh air and decrease the amount of traffic and emissions. Additionally, she felt there were academic lessons to be learned by the activity, such as learning to draw maps, calculate miles, observe nature and even write poetry. She related a story about her son who had recently been hit by a truck in a crosswalk near his school. She said her son was merely bruised by the experience; however, she believed there were many more such incidents than those that had been reported. She thought the International Walk to School Day offered a great opportunity to remind motorists about the need for extreme care in school zones every day of the year.

16-0820 **7D** Proclamation – October 1, 2016 is Gerlach Volunteer Fire Department recognition day in Gerlach Nevada.

Commissioner Herman read the Proclamation.

There were no public comments on Agenda Items 7A through 7D.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Lucey absent, it was ordered that Agenda Items 7A through 7D be approved.

16-0821 **AGENDA ITEM 8** Possible Closed Session for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations with Washoe County, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District and/or Sierra Fire Protection District per NRS 288.220.

There was no need for a Closed Session.

16-0822 **AGENDA ITEM 9** Public Comment.

Elise Weatherly remarked on the excellence she observed in some County employees and spoke about the Bible.

16-0823 **AGENDA ITEM 10** Announcements/Reports.

John Slaughter, County Manager, announced the Walk with Washoe series would commence at 5:30 p.m. at the Sun Valley Regional Park on the Sun Rock Trail. He hoped to see everyone there.

Commissioner Berkbigler stated the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN) met during the previous week. During the meeting, statistical information had been provided related to Washoe County's education system which showed Washoe County's statistics were significantly better or equal to those in the middle of the Country. She noted SAT scores for the Washoe County School District (WCSD) came in at 494 as compared to the national statistics of 487. American College Testing (ACT) scores for the WCSD came in at 32 percent as compared to the national statistics of 28 percent. She thought the numbers were significant and the School District was doing a much better job than they were getting credit for. She noted a national study regarding economic development indicated the greater Washoe County area, which she thought included Carson City and Douglas County, was the fastest growing area in the Nation. She felt this was a very positive thing; however, she expressed concerns about rising rents and the lack of housing options. She stated it was interesting that Nevada, and specifically Reno, was getting so much attention.

Chair Jung thanked Commissioner Berkbigler for everything she did to promote the Region's economic development.

Commissioner Hartung spoke about the Donate Life Walk at the Sparks Marina which he attended on the previous Sunday. He noted the Dolan Family was a

major sponsor of the event and it was well attended. He encouraged everyone to become an organ donor for the purpose of saving lives. He mentioned some businesses provided discounts to people who had the organ donor designation on their driver licenses. He expressed concerns about the upcoming emergency meeting in relation to the Open Meeting Law as the agenda did not contain the names of the individuals who would be considered for the vacancies in the State Legislature.

Commissioner Herman stated she wanted to ensure the concerns raised by Doug Busselman, Executive Vice President of the Nevada Farm Bureau, would be addressed. She thought the organization should be provided with an opportunity to fully disclose the nature of their interests and concerns in a public forum.

Chair Jung responded to Commissioner Hartung's remarks about the upcoming special meeting and the Open Meeting Law. She stated the process had been fully vetted by Legal Counsel. She explained, at the request of Governor Brian Sandoval, she was asking the Commissioners to submit their top picks for the three open legislative seats in writing to the County Manager before the close of business on the next day. She encouraged anyone interested in the positions to provide the supporting documentation they believed the Commissioners would need to make their decisions. She said the names of those who would be considered for the positions would be published and posted before the final interviews during the special meeting.

David Watts-Vial, Legal Counsel, urged the Commissioners not to meet or discuss the candidates with each other in advance of the special meeting. As he understood the process, each of the Commissioners would submit a top choice for each of the individual seats to the County Manager. No action would be taken on any of the nominations until the meeting, which was set for the upcoming Thursday.

Chair Jung further remarked Thursday's meeting was scheduled for 3:30 p.m. and any and all interested persons were encouraged to apply for the legislative seats.

Mr. Slaughter indicated the Manager's Office had been receiving inquiries and as people called in, staff asked whether or not they were interested in the positions and if they wanted to add their names to the list. He explained individuals were informed that once their names were added to the list, the information would become public. As soon as the list was compiled, after the deadline of 5:00 p.m. the next day, the names would be submitted to the Commissioners for their consideration. He stated he knew there were other parties who would be interested in the list of names and indicated the information would be provided and made public.

Commissioner Hartung stated he wanted to ensure everyone was informed about the deadline for the submission of names. Chair Jung asked him if he thought the deadline should be earlier. Commissioner Hartung replied "no"; he merely wanted to ensure the deadline was announced. Chair Jung stated communications staff would be instructed to make sure that information was pushed out to the public.

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

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10:51 a.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

KITTY K. JUNG, Chair
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

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

*Minutes Prepared by:
Cathy Smith, Deputy County Clerk*