

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

JANUARY 3, 2017

PRESENT:

**Kitty Jung, Commissioner**

**Bob Lucey, Commissioner**

**Marsha Berkbigler, Commissioner**

**Vaughn Hartung, Commissioner**

**Jeanne Herman, Commissioner**

**Jan Galassini, Chief Deputy County Clerk**

**John Slaughter, County Manager**

**Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel**

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:07 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:

The Boy Scout Troop 14's Color Guard presented the colors.

**17-0003      AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.**

Katie Colling said she was the Vice President for the Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality and an appointed member of the City of Reno Ward 4 Neighborhood Advisory Board. She spoke about the lack of affordable housing within the community. She proposed a mandate requiring a percentage of all new development be dedicated to affordable housing. She believed affordable housing was a niche market which isolated people and created poor neighborhoods. Due to increasing rent costs, she also proposed placing properties in community land trusts. Lastly, she suggested the creation of work, live, and play spaces for everyone in the community and not just the rich.

Pete Todoroff introduced himself as the Chair of the Incline Village/Crystal Bay Citizen Advisory Board. He thanked Commissioner Berkbigler and John Slaughter, County Manager, for allocating \$70,000 to Incline Village/Crystal Bay's senior services.

Garth Elliott thanked the Board for improving the Chambers. He stated the oath of office did not require those taking it to pledge an allegiance to the people they served. He asked the Board not to forget about the community's seniors.

Sam Dehne stated he was the heart and soul of the City of Reno government. He hoped the Board would do a good job.

Aria Overli said she worked as an organizer for Acting in Community Together in Organizing Northern Nevada, a faith-based community organization, which did a lot of work with homelessness issues. She said the community desperately needed affordable housing. She suggested a simple solution would be to create a safe ground which would provide people a place to stay without the threat of harassment or eviction while they were in between homes. She mentioned business owners who allowed homeless people to remain on their property were being fined and threatened with criminal action.

Donna Clontz stated she was a member of the County's Senior Services Advisory Board and the City of Reno Senior Citizen Advisory Committee. She congratulated the Board on its return and she said she looked forward to working with them. She provided a handout regarding seniors which was placed on file with the Clerk. She mentioned the County's Senior Services Advisory Board, the City of Reno Senior Citizen Advisory Committee, and the Senior Coalition of Washoe County would be hosting an advocacy meeting at the County's Senior Center. Their goal was to show the County's senior population how easy it was to reach out to their government officials regarding issues that affected them. She encouraged people to participate in the training and to participate in a follow-up trip to the Nevada Legislature on February 23, 2017. Transportation to the Nevada Legislature from the County's Senior Center would be provided by the Regional Transportation Commission free of charge.

**17-0004**      **AGENDA ITEM 4** Oath of office for newly elected officials by Chief Judge Patrick Flanagan.

Chief Judge Patrick Flanagan, Second Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada Department 7, told the story of Cleisthenes, a Greek patrician, who proposed a radical new form of government which gave the people the power to rule themselves. "Demos" the Greek word for people and "Kratos" the Greek word for power were the roots of the word "democracy". He spoke briefly about the history of United States (U.S.) Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The U.S. Constitution told the government what it could do and the Bill of Rights told the government what it could not do. He stated between the two, they encouraged the active participation of citizens in the operation of government. 241 years since the Declaration of Independence, he said our society celebrated that by swearing in ordinary citizens who raised their hand and agreed to be bound by the oath of office to serve the people. He asked people in attendance to take a moment and thank those being sworn in for their sacrifice.

Chief Judge Flanagan administered the oaths of office to the newly elected County Commissioners and County Officers as listed below:

**Commission Districts:**

Marsha Berkbigler – Washoe County Commissioner, District 1

Vaughn Hartung – Washoe County Commissioner, District 4

**County Offices:**

Pete Sferrazza – Justice of the Peace, Reno, Department 2  
Ryan Sullivan – Justice of the Peace, Reno, Department 3  
Dave Clifton – Justice of the Peace, Reno, Department 5  
Kevin Higgins – Justice of the Peace, Sparks, Department 2  
Jessica Longley – Justice of the Peace, Sparks, Department 3

**General Improvement Districts:**

Phillip Horan – Trustee, Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID)

Joseph Barstow – Trustee, Sun Valley General Improvement District (SVGID)

Garth Elliott – Trustee, Sun Valley General Improvement District (SVGID)

Carmen Ortiz – Trustee, Sun Valley General Improvement District (SVGID)

**10:38 a.m.** The Board recessed for refreshments.

**11:05 a.m.** the Board reconvened with all members present.

There was no public comment.

**17-0005** **AGENDA ITEM 5** Election of Chair of the Washoe County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Berkbigler nominated Commissioner Lucey as Chair. Commissioner Hartung seconded the nomination.

There was no public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Commissioner Lucey be elected as the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners.

Chair Lucey assumed the gavel.

Chair Lucey said he was honored to serve as the next Chair of the Board of County Commissioners. He remarked a lot of great work had been done and he looked forward to the year ahead.

**17-0006**      **AGENDA ITEM 6** Election of Vice-Chair of the Washoe County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Jung nominated Commissioner Berkbigler as Vice Chair. Commissioner Hartung seconded the nomination.

There was no public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Commissioner Berkbigler be elected as the Vice Chair of the Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Berkbigler I appreciate the support of this group, and as Chair Lucey indicated, this is a top notch team. Pleased to be working with you.

**17-0007**      **AGENDA ITEM 7** Fix the terms of office of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board.

Commissioner Berkbigler suggested fixing the terms for Chair and Vice Chair at one year.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that the terms for the Chair and the Vice Chair of the Board remain as one year terms.

**17-0008**      **AGENDA ITEM 8** Public Comment.

Garth Elliott congratulated the Board. Over the past 22 years he had appeared before the Board, he said the current Board was one of the best groups the County had ever had. He said he looked forward to the next year.

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**11:10 a.m.** There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

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**BOB LUCEY**, Chair  
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

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

*Minutes Prepared by:*  
*Michael, Deputy County Clerk*