

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

MARCH 20, 2018

PRESENT:

Marsha Berkbigler, Chair

Kitty Jung, Vice Chair

Bob Lucey, Commissioner

Vaughn Hartung, Commissioner

Jeanne Herman, Commissioner

Nancy Parent, County Clerk

John Slaughter, County Manager

Paul Lipparelli, Deputy District Attorney

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:55 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:

18-0202 AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.

Ms. Tammy Holt-Still provided documents that were distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. She referenced an article in *The Reno Gazette-Journal* regarding flooding in Lemmon Valley. She claimed \$2 million of the \$7 million spent in Lemmon Valley was paid for by the State of Nevada and more than \$633,000 was spent to save a sewer plant. She asked why a request Commissioner Herman made in January had not yet been heard. She stated there were issues with the Washoe County website.

Mr. Sam Dehne spoke about Pan American World Airways, a lawsuit against the Washoe County School Board regarding the high school at Wildcreek, and *The Reno Gazette-Journal*.

Ms. Elise Weatherly spoke about cabaret licenses, the American Civil Liberties Union defending a student who used vulgar language when speaking with Congressman Mark Amodei's office, a recent job opening, and employees smoking outside a Catholic center.

Honorable Judge Elliott Sattler stated he had been involved with a high school mock trial competition for fifteen years and said countries around the world took part. 30,000 high school students were involved with the program. He promoted the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Reno from May 10 through 12. He pointed out Reno was the smallest city ever to host the competition. He said courtrooms

at the Family Court, District Court, Justice Court, and Federal Court would be used by the students, who would conduct 30 trials. He added there would be a reception for adults and another for the students. He provided promotional materials which were placed on file with the Clerk.

18-0203 AGENDA ITEM 4 Announcements/Reports.

Chair Berkbigler announced the County's Sober 24 program was selected for a National Lifesavers award and praised the program. Referencing correspondence she received, she requested an agenda item to discuss snow removal in Incline Village.

Commissioner Lucey requested an agenda item to discuss the hours of operation for the Clerk's Office since all late-night wedding chapels were no longer open. He thanked the County's Roads Department for their work during recent storms. He spoke about a snowplow driver he met who was retiring at the end of the season. The driver pointed out snowplow drivers did not have right of way protections on roads like Emergency Medical Service vehicles did. He felt a discussion was needed on the topic, which had a statewide impact.

Commissioner Jung stated she attended a women's luncheon at the Washoe County Golf Course and stated the golf course was outperforming the standards set out in their contract. She invited the Board to visit the golf course. She mentioned she represented the Board at the Nevada Prayer Breakfast hosted by the Nevada Interfaith Association. She said Sierra View Library owner Rob Rothe donated over \$1 million to the County for the building that housed the library. She indicated Buy Nevada First Gift Shop owner Dave Asher suggested a Resolution of thanks for a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new space at the old Burlington Coat Factory. She said the Library Board should take the lead on that. Lastly she mentioned she would represent the Board at a McQueen High School roundtable regarding gun violence, walkouts, and local politics. She invited the Commissioners to join her.

County Manager John Slaughter mentioned Tom Raymond was the snowplow driver Commissioner Lucey referenced and noted it was a very skilled profession. Mr. Slaughter affirmed snowplow drivers did not have right of way. He announced Commissioner Hartung was selected by the Nevada Water Environment Association as their 2018 Public Official of the Year. Commissioner Hartung's passion for water and its impact to the region were cited as key considerations in the Association's decision. Mr. Slaughter added Governor Brian Sandoval was the other public official to receive the award. He said the award would be presented at the Association's luncheon on April 14, 2018 at the Sparks Nugget.

Commissioner Hartung said he was humbled and added it would not have been possible without the support of all the other boards and commissions that the members of the Board served on. He listed some of the Boards that gave support. He felt it was an award the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) should share.

Chair Berkbigler praised Commissioner Hartung for bringing water issues to the BCC's attention. Commissioner Jung asked for the details of the luncheon so she could attend. She lauded Commissioner Hartung for simplifying water issues so they could be better understood and indicated she would attend the luncheon.

18-0204 **AGENDA ITEM 5** Certificates honoring the following Washoe County employees who have completed essential employee development courses—Human Resources.

John Slaughter, County Manager, recognized the following employees:

Essentials of SAP for Financial Staff

Trish Dyer, Community Services Department

Promote Yourself! Mini Certificate Program

Emily Ladouceur, Assessor's Office

Essentials of High Performing Teams

Kathie Maestas, Recorder's Office

Essentials of Personal Effectiveness

Kathie Maestas, Recorder's Office

County Manager John Slaughter noted it required many hours to complete a certificate and he thanked the recipients' supervisors and managers for allowing them to participate. Chair Berkbigler added her thanks to Mr. Slaughter for leading employees to do great things.

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

PROCLAMATIONS

18-0205 **6A1** Proclaim March 31, 2018 Cesar Chavez Day.

Commissioner Jung read and presented the Proclamation to Andrew Barbano. She noted Mr. Barbano was accepting the award on behalf of César Chávez's nephew Ramon Chávez.

Mr. Barbano promoted a celebration of César Chávez Day at Circus Circus on March 31, which would have been Mr. Chávez's 91st birthday. Mr. Barbano recalled on March 20, 1966 Mr. Chávez led a march from Delano California to Sacramento to pressure the governor into passing the California Farm Labor Act. He mentioned Mr. Chávez's nephew Ramon was politicking in Chicago and thanked the Board for the Proclamation.

Mr. Barbano announced local artist Eric Holland would present an original

painting at the celebration and march participant Maria Zamora would induct Tony Mayorga to the César Chávez Nevada Labor Hall of Fame. He said the Reno-Sparks branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People would register voters at the event and the Northern Nevada Literacy Council would give out Spanish-language books. The celebration would feature an authentic Mexican menu. He concluded by speaking about a meeting between César Chávez and Dolores Feemster to advocate for farm workers.

Commissioner Jung mentioned she was buying a table at the celebration and invited anyone who wished to join her.

18-0206 **6A2** Proclaim April 2018 as National Donate Life Month.

Commissioner Hartung stated the subject affected him directly and stated there was nothing more important than signing up for organ donation. He added it saved numerous lives. He read and presented the Proclamation to Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Laura Knight.

Dr. Knight thanked the Board for highlighting the important issue. She indicated Washoe County and the Medical Examiner's (ME) office would be the first county and ME office nationwide to participate in the Let Life Bloom promotion. She said there would be promotional materials available and several County departments would participate in National Blue and Green Day. She expressed gratitude for the Proclamation.

18-0207 **6A3** Proclaim the week of March 19, 2018 through March 23, 2018 as Nevada Moves Week.

Commissioner Jung read the Proclamation and remarked the County would get the Proclamation to the recipient.

Commissioner Jung expressed frustration at parents idling in their cars when picking up their children at school. She pointed out the community had a childhood obesity problem and the Board of Health was often close to not attaining Environmental Protection Agency standards. She clarified that happened most in the Washoe Valley basin area. She encouraged walking children to school and supported not supplying buses for children over a certain age based on proximity. She mentioned there was data that indicated walking to school led to fewer behavioral issues in the classroom. She wondered whether Commissioners could volunteer to walk students to the County's sister school. She repeated the Board would get the Proclamation to its recipient.

County Manager John Slaughter noted Officer Rojer Markesen of the Washoe County School Police had to leave the meeting.

18-0208 **6A4** Proclaim April 2018 as National Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month.

Commissioner Jung read and presented the Proclamation to Director of the Human Services Agency (HSA) Amber Howell.

Ms. Howell thanked the Board and said the topic was one of the most difficult things she was responsible for. She indicated the foster care caseload doubled from 500 in 2011 to 1000 in 2015. Since then, due to grants and initiatives, the HSA reduced the number of children removed from their homes by 200; in fact on March 19 the number dropped below 900. She noted that trend differed from the national trend. She expressed pride at serving as the Director of the HSA and said they were making a difference for children.

Nicole Hicks, Director of the Child Advocacy Center (CAC), recognized the following agencies for partnering with the CAC in the multi-disciplinary approach to child abuse cases: the District Attorney's Office, the Reno Police Department, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, the Washoe County School District, the Sparks Police Department, Crisis Call Center, and the HSA. She said they all did so much for victims of child abuse in the community.

18-0209 **6A5** Proclaim April 8-14, 2018 as National Library Week.

Commissioner Lucey read and presented the Proclamation to Library Director Jeff Scott.

Commissioner Lucey said libraries were places for social get-togethers and safe places for residents. They were places for the transfer of ideas and he praised the leadership of Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott thanked the Commissioners for their support and the funds that were used to renovate the libraries, as well as to provide summer reading programs and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics programming.

18-0210 **6A6** Proclaim April 8, 2018 through April 14, 2018 as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week.

Commissioner Lucey stressed Safety Telecommunications Week was important and praised the people acting as the first line of defense for the citizens. He indicated they ensured radios were working, innovations were utilized, and they worked 24 hours a day, seven days a week to make sure the community was safe. He said they often went without gratitude and he said was honored to recognize those individuals.

Commissioner Lucey read and presented the Proclamation to Communications Supervisor Jenn Felter and Sheriff Chuck Allen.

Ms. Felter thanked the Board for the Proclamation. Sheriff Chuck Allen echoed his gratitude and stated dispatchers were the first ones to speak to citizens in distress. He said it was their job to keep citizens calm and keep those in the Sheriff's Office informed and in control. He stated he took great pride in what dispatchers did every day and added law enforcement professionals could not perform their duties without the dispatchers' collaboration. He thanked the Board for the Proclamation.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Chief Charles Moore commented dispatchers did a great job by painting a picture of what firefighters should expect. He said that was invaluable in determining which resources to send as well as what the situation was. He praised dispatchers for staying calm while managing hundreds of calls. He encouraged the Commissioners to visit the dispatch center.

There was no public comment on the Proclamations listed above.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Agenda Items 6A1 to 6A6 be adopted.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM – 7A

18-0211 **7A** Approval of minutes for the Board of County Commissioner's regular meeting of February 13, 2018 and February 20, 2018. Clerk. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no public comment on the Consent Agenda Items listed above.

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

18-0212 **AGENDA ITEM 8** Possible Closed Session for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations with Washoe County, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District per NRS 288.220.

County Manager John Slaughter said a closed labor meeting was not needed, but reminded the Board the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Board was still in recess for a session as per their agenda.

18-0213 **AGENDA ITEM 9** Public Comment.

Ms. Elise Weatherly thanked Andrew Barbano for being a good neighbor to her mother. She compared a McQueen High School student suspended for an encounter with Congressman Mark Amodei to a student from Excel Christian School who was expelled. She spoke about the Nevada Interfaith Association, organ donation, and supporting grandparents who raised their grandchildren without foster care help.

Ms. Cathy Brandhorst spoke about matters of concern to herself.

18-0214 **AGENDA ITEM 10** Announcements/Reports.

There were no announcements or reports.

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12:07 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:
Derek Sonderfan, Deputy County Clerk*