

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

JULY 16, 2019

PRESENT:

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

Jan Galassini, Chief Deputy County Clerk
Dave Solaro, Interim County Manager
Michael Large, Assistant District Attorney
Nathan Edwards, Deputy District Attorney*

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:30 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:

19-0565 AGENDA ITEM 3 Introduction of new Washoe County Employees.

Dave Solaro, Interim County Manager, asked the following employees to introduce themselves to the Board:

Michael Caplinger, Technology Services
Jeffrey Hills, Community Services Department
Michelle Lambert, Treasurer's Office
Autumn Lighthouse, Technology Services
Joy Raburu, Sheriff's Office
Nancy Ramirez-Partida, Health District
William Roser, Community Services Department
Mark Stewart, Comptroller's Office

***10:34 a.m. Assistant District Attorney Michael Large left the meeting and Deputy District Attorney Nathan Edwards joined the meeting.**

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

19-0566 **AGENDA ITEM 4** Presentation of Excellence in Public Service Certificates honoring Washoe County employees who have completed essential employee development courses.

Interim County Manager Dave Solaro said Washoe County encouraged life-long learning and the professional development of all employees. He explained the Excellence in Public Service program administered by the Human Resources Department was a series of certificate programs designed to support employee development and performance. The courses were completed over a two-year period and demonstrated employees' commitment to continuous personal and professional improvement and Washoe County's journey of excellence.

Mr. Solaro recognized the following employees:

Promote Yourself! Mini Certificate Program

Kara Roseburrough, Health District

Essentials of Management Development

Peter Kinne, Assessor's Office

Amanda Mongolo, Library

Essentials of Personal Effectiveness

Maureen Katenay, Library

Pamela Matson, Comptroller's Office

Toni McLaughlin, Library

Essentials of SAP for HR Reps

Sharon Ruff, Technology Services

Chair Hartung congratulated the certificate recipients. He said the Board appreciated their efforts in making Washoe County a better place to work.

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

19-0567 **AGENDA ITEM 5** Public Comment.

Ms. Annemarie Grant read a letter from her father, Thomas Purdy, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. In the letter, Mr. Purdy alleged that his son had been assaulted by security guards at a casino, hogtied by police officers, and smothered in the County jail. He wrote that the Commissioners had neglected their duties under Nevada Revised Statute 211.020 which mandated they inquire into the safety and well-being of inmates. Ms. Grant stated she had consistently submitted email correspondence to the Board because she did not want another family to experience the same type of loss. She expressed frustration because her emailed correspondence was not read into public comment. She alleged her brother was one of many who died in the County jail. She asked the Board to protect vulnerable community members in the

County. She asserted the safest communities had the most resources, not the most police officers. She entreated the County spend more money on mental health, medical resources at the jail, and training for deputies. She submitted copies of her previous correspondence to the Clerk.

Ms. Elise Weatherly spoke about labels, transparency, truth and justice, the stories covered by the *Reno Gazette-Journal*, and church versus religion. She discussed alcoholism as a disease, religion helping the environment, and Tom Cruise and Scientology. She compared structured query language to philosophy and suggested a new motto for the County.

Ms. Tonja Brown claimed one form of police brutality involved officers lying, destroying evidence, and conspiring to conceal crimes committed by public officials. She asserted innocent people being convicted of crimes they had not committed was a form of police brutality. She said Washoe County District Attorney (DA) Christopher Hicks implemented a Conviction Integrity Committee (CIC) to review cases for those who had been wrongfully convicted. She stated it appeared the DA's Office was not looking at the defendants' petitions files when determinations were made on petitions. She said she mailed copies of documents pertaining to the estate of Mr. Nolan Klein to the Commissioners. She spoke about the CIC's decision and a petition for the exoneration of Mr. Klein by Judge Brent Adams. She mentioned a non-fiction book titled *To Prove His Innocence* which detailed Mr. Klein's case since 1998.

Chief Deputy County Clerk Jan Galassini stated she received email correspondence from Ms. Brown, a copy of which was placed on the record for the meeting.

Mr. Sam Dehne spoke about Reno media, his attendance at government meetings, and said the Reno area had the best fire department in America.

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

19-0568 **AGENDA ITEM 6** Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Herman stated the lack of signs on Peavine Mountain resulted in the lack of a safe place for shooters to practice; she added they did not intend to start fires. She said the County had a responsibility to provide places for shooting practice. There was one public facility in the County but it was not easily accessible because it was often reserved or closed. She said residents needed a safe shooting location on the east and west sides of the County. She noted there were many parks in the County for a variety of activities but there were no safe places available for gun owners to practice shooting. She felt the County was partially responsible for causing the fires which resulted from shooting. She stated shooting was an American institution and a well-armed citizenry was important and a constitutional right.

Commissioner Berkbigler mentioned she attended a meeting on July 15 regarding parking and traffic issues in Incline Village, which were a concern all year but exacerbated during the summer months. She said the Regional Transportation Commission's (RTC) responsibility in the Incline Village area was discussed at the meeting. She asked whether the two Commissioners who served on the RTC Board would request a report from the RTC about responsibilities for Incline Village and what was being done. Another issue discussed at the meeting was whether tax funds collected in Incline Village for the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority (RSCVA) should be returned to Incline Village for a shuttle service if the RTC was unable to provide services. She noted the RSCVA advertised in Incline Village and brought in more tourism and traffic. She queried how the County would resolve the issue. She requested Vice Chair Lucey, who was the Chair of the RSCVA Board, provide a report of any suggestions he had. She stated she would prepare a summary of the meeting for Interim County Manager Dave Solaro and the Commissioners.

Vice Chair Lucey reported that he, Chair Hartung, and Commissioner Herman participated in the National Association of Counties Conference (NACC) in Clark County the prior weekend. He said approximately 5,000 people from across the country attended the conference and participated in a multitude of discussions. The breakout session covering the Integrating Nevada Supporting Partnerships Improving Results Effectuating Success program had been of particular interest to him because of the Board's work on the program. He mentioned the annual achievement awards presented during the conference, three of which were awarded to Washoe County programs. The County Library system received one award for the Kid's Café summer meals program that, in partnership with the Food Bank of Northern Nevada, provided free lunches during the summer break for children between the ages of 1 to 18. A second award was presented to the County Library system for The QUAD makerspace which helped the public understand hardware, software, and creating new technology. He congratulated Library Director Jeffrey Scott and the libraries for the awards.

Commissioner Jung said she toured the Reno/Stead Water Reclamation Facility on July 11 to see how wastewater was converted into effluent and to learn about the requirements for turning it into potable water. She said the tour was arranged by Councilmember Weber and attended by members of her Neighborhood Advisory Boards and other citizen activists. She mentioned she went to the inaugural senior park party at Paradise Park on July 14 which she had helped sponsor. She said the party was well attended and she looked forward to the growth of the event in future years. She indicated she would attend a debriefing meeting with party organizers and hoped to provide some assistance. She stated she would meet with the 5210 Healthy Washoe Advisory Board on July 17 and asked whether Commissioner Berkbigler had been briefed on it through the Board of Health. She thought Commissioner Berkbigler should be on the Board since it was associated with the Board of Health. She suggested they discuss the issue at a later time. She indicated the program, started by a doctor through the Community Health Alliance, was part of a national program that Washoe County was adopting. The program promoted five servings of fruits and vegetables, no more than two hours of screen time, one hour of physical activity, and zero sugary drinks per day.

Commissioner Jung observed there was a lack of coordination with the Communications Department for advertising when Commissioners donated discretionary funds or the activities being supported. She thought Community Relations needed to be involved. She felt there should be more robust assistance from Community Relations because Commissioners had approximately \$20,000 each, which amounted to \$100,000 in discretionary funds that were distributed. She asked for a response from staff on whether the issue would be discussed formally during a future meeting or whether a process would be established behind the scenes.

Chair Hartung asked Interim County Manager Dave Solaro about the process for getting another shooting facility. He noted the bike path to Lake Tahoe, and the soccer and baseball facilities mentioned earlier were all privately funded. He said perhaps shooters could help fund a facility for shooting. He wanted to know the hours of operation for the shooting range and how people could freely go to the range to shoot. He mentioned previous conversations about developing an evacuation plan and he thought the Board needed to be involved in the process. He noted topics included registering homebound individuals, disaster planning, and evacuation.

Chair Hartung reiterated he, Commissioner Herman, and Vice Chair Lucey had attended the NACC the prior weekend. Some of the sessions he attended during the conference were 'Energy, Environment, and Land Use', 'Resilient Counties', and 'Supporting an Aging Population'. One factoid mentioned during the 'Resilient Counties' session was that more than one third of the 3,069 counties in the United States had declared disasters during the prior three years including floods, fires, and earthquakes. He thought the County's disaster planning needed to be prioritized. He stated resilience bonds were briefly mentioned and asked whether the County could utilize them. He noted Vice Chair Lucey had been a panelist for the conference discussion session about 'How Counties are Changing Lives Today'. He congratulated him and Second Judicial District Court Judge Egan Walker for being selected to speak at the NACC. He mentioned Washoe County Grants Administrator Gabrielle Enfield and Nevada Arts Council Executive Director Tony Manfredi were panelists for the 'Creating Vibrant Communities Through Public Art' session. He thanked everyone for their participation.

Commissioner Jung asked staff to check whether the Regional Public Safety Training Center shooting area could be used by the public when it was not in use. She wondered whether there were safety, propriety, or interlocal agreement issues which would prevent the public from using the facility. She said everyone paid for it and it was not used all of the time. She suggested it could provide another option for people to shoot legally which did not require them to drive across the valley to an underfunded shooting facility. She asked whether there was a way for the County to buy emergency management insurance in light of the frequent climate disasters. She was aware of companies that insured for hurricanes in the south and she believed using experts on retainer with insurance companies was less expensive than using County staff to manage a climate disaster. In reference to signage on Peavine, she said a member of the Poedunks group contacted her to discuss the signs. She suggested she and Commissioner Herman

meet with him and noted the issue had been drawn out a long time because of jurisdictional matters. She stated she had paid for the mapping to expedite the surveying and Commissioner Herman paid for the signs. She asked staff to coordinate a meeting.

Chair Hartung stated he met with an official from the Department of the Interior to discuss the Washoe County lands bill. He said much of the land located to the east could be used to fund things like a new regional shooting facility through a Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act style of acquisition. He conveyed a desire for further discussion on the topic. He referred to email correspondence received by the Commissioners from a constituent who wanted to discuss building a bike park in the Lemmon Valley or North Valleys area. He noted there was a bike park in Sun Valley managed by the Sun Valley General Improvement District. He stated he had no objection with helping youth build a bike park but expressed concern about how to keep motorized vehicles out of the park. He requested staff provide information in response to the request.

DONATIONS

- 19-0569** **7A** Recommendation to accept cash donations [\$320,000] from the Wilbur May Foundation: \$220,000 restricted for FY20 general operating support of the Wilbur D. May Center, excluding all County overhead and \$100,000 restricted to support FY20 temporary exhibits at the Wilbur D. May Museum; and if accepted and approved, direct the Comptroller's Office to make the appropriate budget amendments. Community Services. (Commission District 3.)
- 19-0570** **7B1** Recommendation to accept cash donations to the Human Services Agency -Senior Services Fund to support operations of the Washoe County Senior Centers in the amount of [\$1,564.50] retroactive for the period April 21, 2019 through June 17, 2019; and direct the Comptroller to make the necessary budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)
- 19-0571** **7B2** Recommendation to (1) acknowledge various items donated totaling an estimated market value of [\$11,705] retroactive for the period April 21, 2019 through June 25, 2019 and; (2) accept cash donations to Washoe County Human Services Agency to support child welfare activities in the amount of [\$1,576.85] retroactive for the period April 21, 2019 through June 17, 2019 and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)

Commissioner Jung read the donations and reviewed the programs and services the donations would benefit. She stated the County could not provide services without the volunteerism and generosity of County residents.

On the call for public comment, Ms. Cathy Brandhorst spoke about matters of concern to herself.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Vice Chair Lucey, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Items 7A through 7B2 be accepted.

19-0572 **AGENDA ITEM 8** Possible Closed Session for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations with Washoe County and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District per NRS 288.220.

Interim County Manager Dave Solaro indicated a closed session was not needed.

19-0573 **AGENDA ITEM 9** Public Comment.

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

Ms. Elise Weatherly stated she was pro-eternal life but approved of the death penalty. She said she opposed Mr. Richard Allen Davis' stay of execution. She spoke about the court case involving Excel Christian School. She opined alcoholism should not be designated a disease or be part of the legal system. She said shooters had less money than cyclists and soccer moms and she liked the idea of using public funds for a shooting range. She stated parents did not want to pay child support if they did not want to raise their children.

Ms. Tonja Brown provided documents, copies of which were placed on file with the Clerk. She showed a copy of the non-fiction book *To Prove His Innocence*, written by criminal defense attorney Treva Hearne under the pen name Mary Elizabeth Morgan. She read email correspondence regarding the Conviction Integrity Committee's investigation and discussed issues with the photo lineup used in Mr. Nolan Klein's case. She claimed Governor Kenny Guinn found Mr. Klein innocent after an investigation conducted in 2000 but the District Attorney's Office wanted to take the case to the Pardons Board.

Ms. Annemarie Grant said the Sheriff's Office did not contact family members when her brother was taken to the hospital. After two days, hospital staff contacted family members to notify them of his condition. She said she provided hundreds of statements from County residents about how they were treated at the County jail. She stated her brother was hogtied for 40 minutes and alleged four deputies sat on his back. She asserted her brother had not died from excited delirium as indicated by County jail staff. She expressed concern because three agencies had failed to assist her brother: the casino, the Reno Police Department, and the Washoe County Sheriff's Office. She entreated the Board ensure the money for the County jail was used correctly to prevent future deaths.

19-0574 AGENDA ITEM 10 Announcements/Reports.

In reference to Commissioner Jung's announcement about touring the Reno/Stead water reclamation plant, Chair Hartung encouraged Commissioners to tour the South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility if they had not done so. He said Dr. Krishna Pagilla, Director of the Nevada Water Innovation Campus, was working toward attaining class A+ classification in an affordable fashion.

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11:38 a.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

VAUGHN HARTUNG, Chair
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

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

*Minutes Prepared by:
Carolina Stickley, Deputy County Clerk*