

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

MAY 17, 2022

PRESENT:

**Vaughn Hartung, Chair**  
**Alexis Hill, Vice Chair, via Zoom**  
**Bob Lucey, Commissioner**  
**Kitty Jung, Commissioner**  
**Jeanne Herman, Commissioner**

**Janis Galassini, County Clerk**  
**Dave Solaro, Assistant County Manager**  
**Mary Kandaras, Chief Deputy District Attorney**

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, County Clerk Jan Galassini called roll and the Board conducted the following business:

**22-0359**      **AGENDA ITEM 3** Appearance and presentation by Dr. John Klacking, Founder of Angiocrine Bioscience, on stem cell modulations for regenerative and cancer therapy.

Dr. Klacking said he was asked to present some information on stem cell therapy for organ regeneration and the latest science about cancer. He indicated the first cancer hospitals were formed around 1940 and wanted to show how studies had grown and where stem cells were in relation to cancer. He spoke about losing his wife and son to cancer, noting his background was in cancer research and he had strong feelings about studying how to proceed with stem cells.

Dr. Klacking directed attention to the PowerPoint presentation showing the Texas Medical Center as a bare piece of land, but it was now the largest medical center in the world and was twice the size of any other medical center. He explained the medical center was started by a grant from Monroe David Anderson, a wealthy cotton merchant, who left \$2 million to the State of Texas. Texas then matched the grant to form one of the first cancer hospitals. He displayed a slide showing the Texas Medical Center fully built and said the buildings were connected underground and above ground for ease of movement. He stated the center included multiple medical schools and hospitals.

Dr. Klacking said until Proposition 71 was passed in California, progress on stem cell research was slow. He brought up Bob Klein, a real estate developer passionate about Proposition 71, who raised billions of dollars for research. He compared slides of Stanford University before and after the passage of Proposition 71. He spoke about the

tremendous expansion of stem cell research happening across the nation and noted there were currently 3,000 clinical trials dealing in stem cells.

Dr. Klacking displayed a slide depicting the research being conducted at UC Davis before stem cell research began and compared it to a slide showing the extent of research after the proposition passed in California. He noted he sat on the board for UC Davis. He indicated his company, Angiocrine Bioscience, was founded in New York at Cornell Medical Center and was the first company ever incubated there. He said the company moved to California and paired up with UC Davis to be able to receive funding for stem cell research. He stated one of his partners was Dr. Shahin Rafii. He displayed a slide showing an endothelial cell and he believed the best way to explain an endothelial cell was with the blood vein that could be seen in the wrist, noting the cells made the blood veins in the body they lined. He noted COVID-19 (C19) attacked the lining of the lungs, and when inflamed would set off an immune reaction, the cytokine storm, which was problematic with C19. He believed the endothelial cells were a conduit to carry blood throughout the body but discovered they interacted with tumor cells and stem cells much as platelets did. Platelets were revealed to clog the blood at a lesion, but it was later determined they played a much larger role.

Dr. Klacking stated he met Dr. Shahin Rafii at a cancer conference where Dr. Rafii showed the interaction between stem cells and other cells. He said that stem cells had come mostly from bone marrow transplants for the past 40 years, which was an important component. He noted there were other things in the bone marrow that had an effect, but it was stem cells that played the most important role. He indicated the term “bone marrow transplants” were not commonly heard recently, and said people frequently spoke about “stem cell transplants.” He mentioned chemotherapy and its effects on the immune system and referenced the movie “The Boy in the Plastic Bubble.” The story was about a boy who had to live in an environment with no contaminant microbes because his immune system had been completely wiped out from chemotherapy treatment. Dr. Klacking stated a body would need to be contaminant free for at least 30 days and said the mortality rate was 20 percent due to the body’s inability to fight off infections. He spoke about targeting a process to repopulate the stem cells faster by utilizing the endothelial cells. This process could be compared to spreading a layer of soil, which was the endothelial cell and planting a seed, that was the stem cell, which would grow in a laboratory setting, then be integrated into a body to boost the immune system. He indicated they were in the third phase of trials for this process and if successful, it could reduce hospitalization times by half, saving people recovery time and money. He said this was one example of how stem cells worked with cancer and could help during metastasis, the process of cancer cells spreading from where they started to another part of the body. He stated stem cell trials occurred in blood cancers. He mentioned the public was not aware of things called cancer stem cells. He believed breast cancer and childhood leukemia were about 95 percent curable currently but said it came down to the individual and the tumor genome, otherwise known as the DNA. He indicated that stem cells could be an enemy also. He explained that a tumor was a heterogeneous grouping of cells, meaning not all the cells were the same, and when patients received chemotherapy, it would wipe out the easy-to-kill cells but could leave the cancer stem cells to appear during a relapse. He noted these

cells had a sort of immortality and researchers were trying to determine how to do a better job of going after those specific cells. He said he witnessed cells going through the rhythmic pace of a beating heart under a microscope at Dr. Shahin's lab in 2006. He noted certain organs were more suited to be generated such as the liver; the work to regenerate the liver had been very successful, but he said it would be some time before they could do that with other organs. He stated stem cells could be taken from one part of the body and work for a different area of the body.

Chair Hartung asked about extracting stem cells and growing an organ that would be suitable for replacement in a transplant situation. Dr. Klacking clarified there were different types of stem cells, and some had specific uses. He stated Dr. Rafii determined in his research that stem cells along with endothelial cells were organ-specific and would need to be extracted together to regenerate an organ such as a liver.

Chair Hartung wondered whether a diseased organ could have stem cells harvested. Dr. Klacking said he was not positive about that but thought if they were normal functioning cells they could be extracted unless the process was invasive to the organ.

Chair Hartung asked when the research was being moved to the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). Dr. Klacking indicated the following Tuesday, noting it would take the support of the public to move forward. He stated the UNR Biotech Program was rated 15th in the nation and said his daughter was a graduate of that program.

Chair Hartung said the Board was supportive of the Nevada Donor Network and Donate Life programs, which was the reason for wanting a presentation about stem cell research being performed around the nation. He added that Dr. Klacking was a representative on the Washoe County District Board of Health.

Dr. Klacking thought he could get Bob Klein to do a presentation, noting the slides Dr. Klacking presented about Stanford University and UC Davis were provided by Mr. Klein. Chair Hartung expressed interest in Mr. Klein speaking at a donor program.

Commissioner Lucey thanked Dr. Klacking for the presentation and spoke about understanding the work he and his company had done with stem cell research. He said it was not only a benefit for the community and the people involved, but the work he did at the Board of Health was extraordinary. He thanked Dr. Klacking for his help and dedication to ensuring the proper steps were being taken to provide adequate health responses.

Dr. Klacking wanted people to understand that stem cells could be injected into places they should not be, saying stem cells were not a miracle. He stated this had occurred in San Diego, California, where stem cells had been extracted from one person and injected into another person without knowing the recipient's genetics. He asserted clinical trials were needed before they were able to move forward. He stated some people were getting stem cells injected into joints for pain but cautioned people to research what doctors were proposing before accepting any injections.

Chair Hartung looked forward to Dr. Klacking's leadership and bringing a program to UNR. He believed it would put the University at the forefront. Dr. Klacking said there was considerable interest in bringing biotech companies to Reno. He noted that leaders in the biotech industry were in Boston, San Diego, and San Francisco.

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

**22-0360** **AGENDA ITEM 4** Appearance and presentation by Colin Robertson (Administrator, Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation) to provide an overview of the Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation and opportunities for collaboration in Washoe County.

Administrator Colin Robertson stated the Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation was a new division in the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, which was created during the 2019 Legislative Session through Assembly Bill 486. Additionally, Governor Steve Sisolak signed Nevada into the Confluence Accords, which was a national alliance of states with a passion for outdoor recreation. He had the privilege of being the Chair of the Confluence of States for the current year. He noted there were 13 states in the alliance currently but said as of the following week there would be a total of 16 states nationally. A larger network of about 40 states total had interest and strategic direction towards creating offices for outdoor recreation. All the offices were similar and built on comparable principles. He indicated outdoor recreation in Nevada was a \$4 billion industry and provided just under 50,000 jobs statewide. For the first few years, the Division had focused on building relationships between State and federal agencies and was currently moving into local relationships.

Mr. Robertson conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Division of Outdoor Recreation; Division Partners; Current Priorities; SCORP Priorities; EDA American Rescue Plan (3 slides); What SB52 Does; and How Washoe County Can Engage with This Work.

Mr. Robertson stated the new Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) would be sent to the National Park Service by the end of the month. He believed it was about 16 months of work including very granular details associated with outdoor recreation of many kinds. The SCORP was driven by three key themes: sustainable outdoor recreation, pathways to health and wellness, and community and economic vitality. He indicated these were the focus of much of the work that the Division would be conducting over the next five years. He mentioned Senator Catherine Cortez Masto worked to support the revitalization of the travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation sector of the economy, which meant important things to Nevada and the Division's work. Funding was earmarked for a special project in Northern Nevada to work with the U.S. Forest Service and community partners across all sectors for the planning and management of the Tahoe Meadows in the Mt. Rose Corridor. He noted this had been a concern for some time and they were able to convince the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to use funds to conduct a planning process to help mitigate some of the public safety concerns in the Tahoe Meadows area. He stated they currently had two

employees but would soon add a third person. He expressed interest in utilizing relationships with members of the Board to enhance and advance efforts and asked the Board to engage him with ideas for outdoor planning and the impact of outdoor recreation related to economic and community development in Washoe County. He encouraged the Board to introduce him to potential partners. He appreciated the local outdoor recreation that had already been established and wanted to continue to enhance that and work collaboratively with the County.

Commissioner Herman mentioned that District 5 had a great deal of outdoor recreation. She expressed gratitude to Governor Sisolak for adding this new department because it was important to keep land maintained and up to date for people to enjoy, especially during COVID-19 (C19). She had been assertive with the County to leave the outdoor recreation open during C19 to provide a place where people could get outside and not feel locked up in their houses. She thanked Mr. Robertson for the wonderful job the department was doing.

Commissioner Jung wondered when data was going to be collected and whether it would be done county by county. Mr. Robertson stated that was the goal so the division could get to a more granular level of detail. He said data from the national level to the State level was detailed to show economic impacts and they wanted the local data to be just as detailed, although he noted it would be a process and would not happen on the first effort. He informed work had begun with the SCORP on the asset inventory for every State and local land manager operating in Nevada related to outdoor recreation infrastructure. He said Washoe County was integral to the process and would know how many miles of trails, campsites, and acres of open space existed in each county. He noted each county had an appendix for this information included in the SCORP.

Commissioner Jung wanted to see the information by county because it would help with distributing resources where they were needed, as well as making a case to the State about the differences between Washoe County and Clark County related to the economic impact of year-round outdoor recreation possibilities. She thought Northern Nevada got lost at times and was happy that Mr. Robertson, as a State Director, resided in Washoe County. People familiar with Southern Nevada were unaware of how different it was from Northern Nevada. She wondered where the closest dark sky area was with lodging to see stars in Northern Nevada. Mr. Robertson stated there were tremendous dark sky resources across the entire State. He noted Boulder City was currently exploring a dark sky lighting ordinance to take advantage of the proximity of Lake Mead National Recreation Area, which was the fifth most visited national park in the United States. People were visiting for the dark sky opportunities and the lake. He noted the opportunities for dark sky tourism were significant in the entire State and they were working to promote that aspect and encourage people to conserve the dark sky assets as well as other types of natural resources.

Vice Chair Hill said she would take Commissioner Jung on a camping trip to Massacre Ridge to see the massive number of stars out there. She expressed excitement about Mr. Robertson living in Northern Nevada and thanked him for all his work with

outdoor recreation in the State. She thought his accomplishments were incredible, especially with being a one-man show for so long. She brought up the Tahoe Meadows as being a huge concern to her constituents, and she thanked Mr. Robertson for the awareness he had created about the major highway going through that area. She was unaware whether the funding had been received for the planning and was excited to offer any help she could. She thought the County could use guidance with the Ambrose Dam and was not sure whether he had been made aware of the concerns of river rafting near that park. She wanted to speak with him offline to inquire about ways to work together. Mr. Robertson stated it was important that Washoe County had participated in the destination stewardship planning process for Lake Tahoe. He noted the County supported this and said the process was underway starting that week with visioning workshops in Kings Beach. He explained more workshops were planned for Incline Village and Stateline to help steward the natural resources and tourism with outdoor recreation economies that were thriving because of Lake Tahoe. Vice Chair Hill spoke about the Tahoe stewardship program and said there was a group that would be presenting to the Board.

Commissioner Lucey thanked Mr. Robertson for the presentation. He wondered how he was working with other visitor bureaus and agencies to ensure information about stewardship for environmental recreation was communicated. Mr. Robertson indicated he was very involved in conversations across the State with convention and visitor authorities, especially in the major metro areas. In the more rural communities, he partnered with designation marketing organizations such as White Pine County Tourism and Recreation. He stated the work he did with the National Park Service was not limited to the SCORP. The Division was active in shepherding projects across the State to help a program within the park services called the River Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, which provided technical assistance to communities when it was invited to visit and educate about community and structure opportunities. He noted that was happening in Washoe County with Gerlach and the Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation among others. He said they worked on local relationships with convention and visitor boards to promote responsible recreation and tourism for the long-term and stewarding of natural resources.

Commissioner Lucey asserted the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority (RSCVA) had always focused on outdoor recreation and not just the Truckee River or mountains for tourist populations. He asked Mr. Robertson to elaborate on the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) Cooperative Extension and wondered about its participation. Mr. Robertson thought there were significant opportunities in Nevada for business tourism, particularly in the outdoor industry. He stated the Reno-Sparks area was a perfect-sized market for niche businesses and conventions and thought the RSCVA and Las Vegas Convention Authority could work together and generate more business-oriented travelers coming to Nevada for outdoor recreation.

Mr. Robertson shared that he grew up on a sheep farm in Minnesota and came to Reno 22 years ago for graduate school at UNR. He was involved in 4-H growing up and said the Cooperative Extension was the administrator of the 4-H programs in Northern Nevada and it did tremendous work. He believed 4-H had the ability to work with

local assets in a remote area to advance ideas about health and wellness and the educational benefits of being outdoors. The Cooperative Extension was an integral executor of those ideas and concepts because it was on the ground in the communities bringing that work to 4-H programs. The 4-H camp in Lake Tahoe was looking for space and resources for a Southern Nevada camp as well, potentially in either Lincoln or Clark County. He indicated he spent significant time applying for EDA assistance for the planning and construction of those camps with the Cooperative Extension.

Commissioner Lucey said when the Division was created the Board was unsure of the outcome or how comprehensive it would be, and he was pleased with the success. He noted that he and Vice Chair Hill were still working on the initiative for the Truckee Meadows Lands Bill, which was for the preservation of wilderness spaces in the northern part of Washoe County. He said the needs of the community and stakeholders could be determined in an educated way because of organizations like this. Mr. Robertson asserted companies could recruit and retain talent in the communities based on outdoor recreation opportunities, which was important in Nevada.

Chair Hartung asked Mr. Robertson whether he had a metric to determine the ingress from outside of Nevada. Mr. Robertson said that would require a lot of resources that they did not have at the State level to fund a study of inflow. He said with strong relationships with Travel Nevada and the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, they had more assets to obtain visitor data related to where and how long people were spending in certain places. He stated, for example, that more Utahans and Californians visited Great Basin National Park than Nevadans and he wanted more Nevadans to take pride in this park since it was in the State of Nevada. He asserted it was important to be able to gather that information to provide accurate details about the economic impacts.

Chair Hartung wondered whether Mr. Robertson was including ghost towns and the history of Nevada in the SCORP. He spoke about remembering family trips to rural places in Nevada that were rich in history. Mr. Robertson said scenic driving was one category of outdoor recreation, not the largest, but he indicated there were more ghost towns than lived in towns in Nevada and it was an essential overlap with outdoor recreation. He explained the Venn Diagram for Nevada; heritage and outdoor recreation overlapped and he believed there was a lot of power and opportunity for the State.

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

**22-0361**      **AGENDA ITEM 5** Public Comment.

Ms. Elise Weatherly spoke about the King's Conduits, wanting to be heard, staying longer at meetings starting in June, her brain surgery, Gordon Lightfoot, Joni Mitchell, Elon Musk, and God needing her.

**22-0362**      **AGENDA ITEM 6** Announcements/Reports.

Assistant County Manager Dave Solaro thought some items on the agenda could appear that Washoe County was spending additional money for management of the Cares Campus, although these funds had already been discussed at previous meetings and were for day-to-day operations.

Vice Chair Hill stated she had the opportunity to attend a Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster training with County staff. She spoke about how impressed she was by the Emergency Management Team, the Sheriff's Office staff, and County Manager Eric Brown and his staff. She said there was so much work the team did to prepare Washoe County for emergencies and stated the leadership within the County was incredible. She looked forward to further planning and investment in emergency management for Washoe County.

Vice Chair Hill said her district had a Community Advisory Board meeting the previous evening and a constituent discussed a neighbor who had excessive weeds on their property. The constituent had gone to code enforcement to ask for a citation to be issued because of concern about fires in the Verdi area. She noted that Washoe County did not have a code to cite people for excessive weeds and thought this was something the Board needed to consider. She wanted an update and presentation by staff for consideration of future code enforcement and public safety.

Commissioner Herman spoke about a remaining bump on Lemmon Valley Drive near Nectar Street in an area where the speed limit was up to 35 miles per hour and was concerned that cars could be damaged by hitting that bump.

Commissioner Jung reminded the Board it was Emergency Medical Services Week, and the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) was hosting a barbecue and employee reception to recognize emergency responders. She said the event would take place in the REMSA helicopter hangar.

Commissioner Jung agreed that experts were needed to help with issues of excessive weeds. She thought many code enforcements needed to be looked at by subject matter experts like the Fire Chief or a designee to harden the whole County against the year-round wildfire threat. She stated the issue was not just in Verdi but more global and she was interested in helping Vice Chair Hill with this issue as it was important to take preventive measures.

**PROCLAMATIONS**

**22-0363**      **7A1** Proclaim May 15, 2022 as National Peace Officer Memorial Day and May 15 - 21, 2022 as National Police Week.

Commissioner Lucey invited Chief Deputy Herrera, Captain Corey Solferino, and Sheriff Darin Balaam to accept this proclamation. He stated part of the work

of the Board of County Commissioners was to create policy and put forth levels of laws and ordinances that protect the citizens. He said the only way the laws and ordinances were adhered to was by enforcement and the Sheriff's Office and police departments did this job tirelessly. He said this proclamation was for them and the work they did to protect the community.

Chair Hartung mentioned he attended the James D. Hoff Memorial, which was well attended by many political figures to honor the fallen police officers. He said he was deeply touched by the brave men and women who wore bullet-resistant vests and put themselves in harm's way to protect the community daily. He expressed sincere gratitude to each one of them.

Sheriff Darin Balaam thanked the Board for the kind words and thanked the community for acknowledging the work of law enforcement. He mentioned it was unfortunate that the Sheriff's Office would be adding one of their own to the memorial next year, Deputy Jarett Oroszi.

**22-0364**      **7A2** Proclaim May 2022 as International Internal Audit Awareness Month.

Commissioner Herman read the proclamation and presented it to Internal Auditor Samantha Turner. Ms. Turner thanked the Board for the proclamation every year and said it was the only time she was in front of the Board. She thanked Commissioner Herman for being on her internal audit committee and Vice Chair Hill for being the alternate.

**22-0365**      **7A3** Proclaim May 2022 as National Mental Health Awareness Month.

Commissioner Jung read the proclamation. She was honored to say the County benefit package included extensive coverage for employees to speak to mental health professionals if experiencing any type of mental health crisis. She mentioned the County was the third-largest employer in the region that provided good mental health benefits. She appreciated the leadership of the Board for its advocacy of mental health in the community. She spoke about the work Commissioner Lucey did as the Chair of the Board during COVID-19 (C19) to ensure children had adult supervision and places to go when their parents still had to work. She asserted that online learning was only good for a small number of children, those who needed minimal supervision to complete schoolwork. She expressed pride for being an employee of such a good organization. She thanked the people that fought at the legislative sessions for mental health.

Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator Dorothy Edwards reminded the community that behavioral health issues included both mental health and substance abuse. She spoke about how proud and impressed she was by the collaboration within all agencies associated with behavioral health. She noted they were working on a policy board, crisis stabilization, health district collaboration, and C19 outreach. She mentioned they reached out to people with C19 to provide someone to talk to and many times they would also provide resources such as food. She stated they were working on an emergency response

plan that included a behavioral health plan and said if they had learned anything it was that they needed to be better prepared to deal with issues. She expressed gratitude to work with law enforcement and mental health clinicians that excelled at what they did. She thanked the Board for its support.

Mental Health Counselor Supervisor Elizabeth Pope from the Cares Campus thanked the Board for the support in bringing mental health assistance to the campus.

Captain Corey Solferino thanked the coalition for the work it did. He thanked County Manager Eric Brown, Sheriff Darin Balaam, and the Board of County Commissioners for bringing mental health awareness to the Sheriff's Office. He mentioned some calls could be heinous and when they received back-to-back calls, it did not provide officers with a break. He said changing the paradigms of the past and bringing mental health awareness to the forefront was critical for their future success. He had the opportunity to attend the Southern Police Institute Administrative Officers Course in 2019 and finished his master's degree there with his thesis on negative affect responses and maladaptive coping strategies for law enforcement. He commented it was not a secret that people did not handle stress well and unless they were provided with outlets and the ability to bring mental health awareness to the forefront, it could continue into bad behavior and ineffective coping strategies.

Chair Hartung thanked the collaboration of agencies for the hard work and stated it was not easy and took a special person to do this work. He spoke about the collaborative dealing with many people with substance abuse issues who were self-medicating. He believed individuals could not be on a productive path until they were clean and sober.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Items 7A1 to 7A3 be adopted.

### **DONATIONS**

**22-0366** **8A1** Recommendation to (1) accept and acknowledge face shields donated to the Nevada Cares Campus from AmerisourceBergen in the estimated amount of [\$1,488.00]; (2) accept and acknowledge various hygiene items donated from the Washoe County Housing and Homeless Services Amazon Wishlist to the Nevada Cares Campus from various community members, in the estimated amount of [\$196.17]; (3) accept and acknowledge various winter clothing items donated to the Northern Nevada Continuum of Care from the non-profit, We Serve with Helping Hands, for the Point in Time Count totaling an estimated market value of [\$285.24]; (4) accept and acknowledge various miscellaneous items donated to the Northern Nevada

Continuum of Care from the Reno Collective, for the Point in Time Count in the estimated amount of [\$50.00]; Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

- 22-0367** **8B1** Recommendation to accept a donation of non-perishable food with an estimated value of [\$15,000.00] from Convoy of Hope to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office for the Patrol Division to distribute to community members in need. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

Commissioner Jung said she was proud of these programs and believed people benefited from them.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Items 8A1 and 8B1 be accepted.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – 9A AND 9B1**

- 22-0368** **9A1** Acknowledge the communications and reports received by the Clerk on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, including the following categories: Monthly Statements/Reports; Budgets; and Tax-Delinquent Property Sales. Clerk. (All Commission Districts.)

- 22-0369** **9B1** Recommendation to acknowledge a Federal 2021 Library Services and Technology Act American Rescue Plan Grant award of [\$35,132.00], no County match required, awarded to the Washoe County Law Library, Second Judicial District Court, from the Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records retroactive from April 8, 2022 - September 30, 2022, and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. District Court. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment on the Consent Agenda Items listed above.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 9A1 and 9B1 be approved. Any and all Resolutions or Interlocal Agreements pertinent to Consent Agenda Items 9A1 and 9B1 are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

- 22-0370** **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation to approve an Agreement for Professional Services between Washoe County and Volunteers of America, Greater Sacramento and Northern Nevada (VOA) to provide contracted staffing to operate the Nevada Cares Campus through June 30th, 2024, for

an amount not to exceed \$6,500,000 annually; if approved, authorize the Purchasing & Contracts Manager to execute the agreement beginning July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024 with the option to renew for three (3) one-year periods thereafter up to \$6,500,000 annually. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

Assistant County Manager Dave Solaro stated a typographical error was discovered in this item noting there was an additional zero at the end of \$6,500,000.

Chair Hartung asked Chief Deputy District Attorney Mary Kandaras whether there was an issue with the item. Ms. Kandaras stated in her opinion it was not an issue as later in the item the dollar amount was listed correctly, and she believed it would not affect anything.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Vice Chair Hill, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be approved and authorized.

**22-0371**

**AGENDA 11** Recommendation to 1) accept transfer of MOST services from the Washoe County Human Services Agency to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office - Operations Division retroactive to March 1, 2022. This includes all previously issued grant purchased equipment, monies, positions, and infrastructure into the new grant award recipient WCSO. On July 20, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners accepted a Subgrant Award for funds in the amount of [1,709,550 (\$854,775 per fiscal year); no county match required] from Nevada Clinical Services, Inc. and managed by the State of Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health retroactive from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023.

The State of Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral approved the updated scope of work (retroactive to 03/01/2022) and transfer to WCSO from HSA to ensure all program requirements are met. The purpose of this grant is to provide crisis and jail diversion services through a Mobile Outreach Safety Team (MOST). The target population for this team is to assist individuals with mental health conditions who have met Law Enforcement and provide them critical stabilization services and ensure they are routed through the appropriate enforcement medium 2) Further recommend authorizing the Sheriff of Washoe County and Director of Washoe County Human Services Agency to execute the First Amendment to and Assignment of Grant Agreement with Nevada Clinical Services, Inc. and related documents 3) authorize the abolishment of one vacant full-time Mental Health Counselor II position (PC#70010603), the transfer of six positions from Washoe County Human Services Agency to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office and direct Human Resources to make the necessary position changes and 4) direct the Comptroller's Office to make the

necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

Vice Chair Hill wanted to ensure these jobs stayed as caseworker positions as long as the grant was fulfilled. Captain Corey Solferino thanked Dorothy Edwards for helping spearhead this transition from HSA to the Sheriff's Office. He pointed out acting Clinician Supervisor Larisa Renner and stated that the position was being transferred from HSA to the Sheriff's Office. He said they were doing an industry best practices model where they dispatched deputies to go into the field with caseworkers to provide protection and deescalate matters if needed. He confirmed these positions were mental health-related positions and not deputies. He indicated they had already seen critical help in a short amount of time. He said last year at this time, Sheriff Darin Balaam instituted a stratifying policing initiative that established repeat address locations with multiple calls and said there had been a decline in repeat locations since this started. He asserted this partnership was long overdue and thanked Ms. Edwards for her work with the program.

Vice Chair Hill asked for an update with data to be presented in 12 months, to determine if additional resources were needed to help with future goals.

Commissioner Jung said Sheriff Balaam was the first sheriff she had worked with in 15 years who had shown humanity, compassion, and willingness to look at things differently related to law and order. She believed the position of Sheriff should be non-partisan. She thanked him for his service, noting he had transformed the way the jail was operated, showed up at mental health and substance abuse crisis calls, and transformed working across divisions and directors to ensure the County had a Sheriff that preserved safety. More importantly, she was so proud of what he had done in the community. She said it was an amazing process to work with these caseworkers and social workers and commended Sheriff Balaam for his treatment of others in the community. She expressed appreciation for the heavy-lift the Sheriff did. Sheriff Balaam said it was all the men and women behind him. He thanked Commissioner Jung for the accolades but noted they went to everyone at the Sheriff's Office and the Board. He stated the budget and hiring were a great help but said everyone was involved in the heavy lifting.

Commissioner Lucey spoke about the Mobile Outreach Safety Team (MOST) as one of the best effective tools the Board had to address certain needs in the community. He mentioned the substance abuse issues at Our Place and the Cares Campus and stated the individuals of the MOST team and deputies at the jail were able to address these issues. He asserted the County could not have an effective outreach system without a team like MOST. He expressed gratitude to the agencies for the cohesiveness and efficient ways they addressed issues in the community. He believed the outreach was greater, the money went further, and they were able to continue to address problems. He said it took the cooperation of HSA, the Sheriff's Office, budgets, and all departments involved. He expressed his support for this action. He stated this was a mental health approach and not an enforcement approach, which was the direction the County wanted to continue to go.

Chair Hartung thought this was a first step to regionalizing the Cities of Sparks and Reno with Washoe County as one team. He stressed the local agencies working together would allow caseworkers to know clients, the services they needed, and whether they were in the process of receiving services. He thought this would allow agencies to hold clients accountable for their progress or lack of progress. He said it was important for caseworkers to not be presented as law enforcement.

Vice Chair Hill looked forward to updates from the team and to finding ways the Board could support it.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Lucey, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 11 be accepted, authorized, and directed.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

**11:57 a.m.** Chair Hartung left the meeting and Commissioner Lucey assumed the gavel.

**22-0372** **AGENDA ITEM 12** Public hearing, discussion, and possible action on the Washoe County Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 pursuant to NRS 354.596-estimated appropriations [\$965,207,730.00], as well as possible changes to the Tentative Budget and adoption of it as the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 pursuant to NRS 354.598-estimated appropriations [\$1,000,375,787]. The proposed budget incorporates Board priorities of funding for existing contractual obligations, supplies, utilities, personnel costs, unfunded mandates from the 2021 Legislative session, second year property tax refunds, increasing role supporting regional Homeless Services capital improvements and operations, maintaining the County's assets and infrastructure needs, and operating budget requests. The proposed budget also includes the following actions:

- 1) To approve Fiscal Year 2022 financial actions as outlined-including increasing the General Fund Stabilization Reserve of fund balance to [\$4,000,000], approximately 1.04% of FY23 budgeted expenditures, pursuant to NRS 354.6115.
- 2) To approve a one-time unbudgeted General Fund transfer of [\$34,346,774] to the Capital Improvement Fund to support a.) approx. \$17.7M for Facilities-Building projects; b.) approx. \$2.3M for Parks projects; c.) approx. \$8.0M for Technology Infrastructure projects; d.) approx. \$2.8M for Planning projects; capital infrastructure needs; e.) approx. \$3.4M for project management, unknown cost escalations/projects shortages, etc., and a one-time transfer of [\$550,000] to the Roads Fund to support large equipment purchases.
- 3) To approve the changes to position control for Fiscal Year 2023 indicated

on Attachment A-including 97.52 Net New Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions and Reclassifications impacting 56.0 positions/incumbents (1.0 retro-active).

If necessary to accommodate any material changes desired by the Board as identified during the hearing on the Tentative Budget, this item may be continued to May 24, 2022 at 10:00 AM. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

Budget Manager Lori Cooke conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: FY 2023 Budget Timeline; Economic Outlook (2 slides); FY 2023 Budget Priorities; FY 2023 Budget (All Funds) (5 slides); FY 2023 Budget – General Fund; FY 2023 General Fund Budget (2 slides); General Fund – Fund Balance; FY 2023 Recommended General Fund Budget (3 slides); Highlighted Other Funds; FY 2023 Recommended Homelessness Fund Budget; FY 2023 Recommended Budget Other Funds; FY 2023 Recommended Budget CIP; FY 2023 Recommended Budget; and Questions/Discussion.

**12:01 p.m. Chair Hartung returned to the meeting.**

Commissioner Lucey asked about a table on the slide titled FY 2023 General Fund Budget and wondered about the other intergovernmental funds FY 2022 estimate to the FY 2023 tentative budget showing a 31.8 percent loss in revenue, a loss of \$3.8 million. Ms. Cooke stated that included the Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursement that was augmented in the budget and that total was used as a revenue and a use leaving a variance of \$4 million.

Ms. Cooke admitted the five-year forecast of the fund balance made her a bit nervous due to collective bargaining agreements that were still pending. She said there would be variabilities until they knew the impacts of those agreements since compensation was the largest expense. She indicated they would continue to update the forecast as the agreements were approved.

Chair Hartung wondered whether the legislative positions were unfunded mandates and counted 17 full-time equivalents (FTE) he thought were from Assembly Bill 424 (AB 424). Ms. Cooke explained all the FTEs seen on the list were from AB 424. She said the other legislative impacts related to elections were handled mid-year for the Registrar of Voters and had to be added in contingency for mid-year and were recommended for funding; she indicated the positions were not considered as new FTEs because they were technically already on the books. She explained the Public Guardian FTEs were reclassifications of positions and not new positions.

Assistant County Manager Dave Solaro, on behalf of County Manager Eric Brown, thanked the departments for the work done throughout the budget process. He thanked the budget team for the work it did with each department to ensure the services and level of service were set as directed by the Board.

Chair Hartung brought up the unfunded mandates and expressed his frustrations. He thought it would be interesting to total all the unfunded mandates from the legislative sessions over the years, stating there were 28 FTEs because of AB 424 alone. He believed these were FTEs that could be going to libraries, parks, the Sheriff's Office, and other areas in the community. He asserted it would be nice if the State provided the money for the FTEs it determined were needed.

Vice Chair Hill understood there was an organizational class and compensation study and wanted clarification on whether that was in process. Ms. Cooke said that question would need to be deferred to human resources (HR). She knew it was something that had been discussed as a necessary study but was unsure of the standing of a classification and compensation study. She believed some departments had worked with HR to have a study conducted. Vice Chair Hill thought she saw something in the budget for that study for HR. She expressed concern that the County was not wage competitive and the workload of employees could be increasing. She wondered whether there would be mid-cycle budget changes if that did occur this year. Ms. Cooke stated she was not aware of any mid-cycle changes but said it could occur if approved by the Board and would be represented in the following year's budget. She thought more information about impacts on the budget and timing for changes would need to be brought forward before any changes were made and it would be a type of transition plan. Vice Chair Hill asked Ms. Cooke to keep the Board apprised of any progress on this study. She thanked the departments for getting the reclasses in for the budget. She expressed excitement about moving forward with this budget and the great new positions that would serve the community.

County Clerk Jan Galassini stated an email was received from Mr. Chase Janvrin and a copy was placed on file.

Chair Hartung clarified with Chief Deputy District Attorney Mary Kandaras that the item could be approved in one motion. Ms. Kandaras stated that was acceptable with a motion to adopt.

On motion by Vice Chair Hill, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 12 be adopted.

**22-0373** **AGENDA ITEM 13** Discussion and possible action on the County Manager's recommended Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Fiscal Years 2023-2027 and direct the County Manager to submit the CIP to the State of Nevada and others by August 1, 2022 as required by NRS 354.5945 [FY 2023 total appropriations of \$159,346,804] which requires all local governments annually to prepare a five-year capital improvement plan to be submitted to the State Department of Taxation and County Debt Management Commission by August 1st of each year. The CIP is a five-year plan for the County's capital improvements for park facilities, including trails, open space, and regional parks; libraries; roads under purview of the County; purchase of light and heavy fleet equipment; utilities infrastructure; capital outlay for major equipment; and County buildings

and other facilities. The CIP is limited to capital projects with an estimated cost of \$100,000 or more for assets that have a life-span of more than one year, as part of the reporting requirements of the State and under Board of County Commissioner (BCC) policies. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

Budget Manager Lori Cooke conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (2 slides); FY 2023 Capital Improvement Fund CIP – Fund; CIP Fund – FY 2022 One-Time Transfer (2 slides); CIP Fund – FY 2023 One-Time Transfer; FY 2023 Parks Capital Fund; FY 2023 Utilities Fund; FY 2023 Road and Equipment Services Funds; Capital Improvement Program; and Questions/Discussion.

Ms. Cooke stated this was the State required five-year CIP that needed to be adopted by the Board and submitted to the Department of Taxation and Debt Management Commission by August 1.

Chair Hartung asked whether broadband fiber to Gerlach was grant-funded. Ms. Cooke stated it was not grant-funded and noted a lot was going on with fiber and broadband. Assistant County Manager Dave Solaro understood this item was funded through the State. Ms. Cooke stated information on e-rates indicated the County would be responsible for about 40 percent of the project costs and said there was some money it wanted to have earmarked for broadband.

Chair Hartung asked about broadband and fiber for Wadsworth. He stated it was difficult for citizens to receive high-speed connections. He hoped the route to Gerlach went through Wadsworth and could be easily accessed. Mr. Solaro said he would make a note of that but indicated it did start in Wadsworth and headed north to Gerlach.

Ms. Cooke spoke about the Parks Capital Fund and noted if a project was not completed within the fiscal year, it was carried over into the next fiscal year.

Chair Hartung said the Utilities Fund came from the ratepayer fund and not through general taxes. Ms. Cooke confirmed that was correct and said it came from the ratepayer fund or the connection fees fund.

Ms. Cooke spoke about the Road and Equipment Services Funds and noted revenue was generated by undesignated street cuts and street cut permits but there were expenses associated with the work. She mentioned the 2023 projects for equipment services and commented the replacement of heavy and light equipment could be delayed due to various shortages.

Vice Chair Hill looked forward to working with staff on infrastructure and ARPA funding to support parks and the North Valleys Library. She expressed support for the CIP and thought these investments for the community were long overdue.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Lucey, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 13 be approved and directed.

**22-0374**      **AGENDA ITEM 14** Public Comment.

County Clerk Jan Galassini stated an email was received from Ms. Elise Weatherly, a copy of which would be placed on file.

**22-0375**      **AGENDA ITEM 15** Announcements/Reports.

There were no announcements or reports.

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**12:47 p.m.**    There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

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**VAUGHN HARTUNG**, Chair  
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**JANIS GALASSINI**, County Clerk and  
Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

*Minutes Prepared by:  
Doni Gassaway, Deputy County Clerk*