

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

DECEMBER 10, 2024

PRESENT:

Alexis Hill, Chair

Jeanne Herman, Vice Chair

Michael Clark, Commissioner

Clara Andriola, Commissioner

Janis Galassini, County Clerk

Eric Brown, County Manager

Mary Kandaras, Chief Deputy District Attorney

ABSENT:

Mariluz Garcia, Commissioner

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:

24-0792 AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.

Mr. Rick Snow referred to Title 18, Section 242 of the United States Code (USC): Deprivation of Rights Under Color of Law. He disclosed that he received a restraining order from the Assistant District Attorney (ADA). He explained that he was still permitted to attend Board of County Commissioner (BCC) meetings if he called County security in advance. He reported that his cell phone and landline were blocked by security, which he determined effectively evicted him from BCC meetings. He described his other attempts to gain access to BCC meetings, and a warning that he received from the Sheriff. Mr. Snow surmised that he was deprived of his rights and proposed solutions, including a forensic audit to review how business was conducted in the County. He requested a refund of the taxes he paid on all five of his properties for the past two years because he felt he was deprived of County services, which he thought nullified the implied contract with the County. He observed that many procedures changed due to COVID-19 (C19) and did not change back.

Mr. Colin Biggs was not present when called to speak.

Mr. Bruce Parks displayed images, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. He predicted that some people would ask Commissioners to continue funding the Washoe County Library System (WCLS), which he suggested would disregard the will that people expressed during the 2024 general election. He noted that 128,000 people voted

against Washoe County Question Number One (WC-1). He believed that Commissioners loved the libraries as much as the residents did, and he expected adequate funding would continue. He thought the failure of WC-1 meant libraries would have to submit a budget they could justify moving forward, which he viewed as a reasonable expectation. He said he easily comprehended the language and purpose of WC-1, and was insulted by claims that people did not understand the question. He supposed there was an organized effort underway to bring people to the meeting to try to convince the Commissioners to subvert the will of the people. He described that the image he displayed was of flyers posted in numerous libraries throughout the County which encouraged people to attend the BCC meeting to voice their support for the WCLS. He concluded that the majority of people disagreed with maintaining a dedicated revenue stream in which monies were largely unaccounted for.

Ms. Julie Ullman, South Valleys Library Branch Manager, displayed images, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. She informed that she had lived in Washoe County and worked in the WCLS since 2000. She advised that she was at the meeting on behalf of her patrons, staff, and the Northern Nevada community to ask the BCC to fully fund the WCLS budget for the next fiscal year. She shared comments and usage statistics from her branch to support her determination that libraries were essential to the County.

Mr. Clifton Campbell displayed images on his phone of industrial activities near his home. No copy was submitted for the public record. He also submitted documents, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. He said he attended the meeting to formally open a grievance regarding a property in his neighborhood in Golden Valley. He reported that someone was conducting a commercial steel operation, despite the neighborhood being zoned low-density suburban (lds). He supported small businesses but objected to the scale and location of the operation. He did not know the name of the business but described that it had been operating for approximately four years, included a steel scrap yard, and continually blocked the street with forklifts. He stated that he had called the County and Code Enforcement but was not satisfied with the results. He disclosed that the County informed him the operation paid a fine and was approved to go about their business. Mr. Campbell explained that Washoe County Development Code (WCDC) revisions made in 2011 affected the zoning of the area. He understood that acceptable uses identified for lds prohibited industrial uses or processes, commercial manufacturing, and commercial parking. He noted there were regularly five to ten employee cars of that business parked on the side of the road. He said that he contacted the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) who advised that they were not able to enforce anything in a residential neighborhood. Mr. Campbell claimed that it was a commercial operation being run with a City of Reno business license, though he was not sure if the license pertained to Washoe County. He was concerned by the lack of enforcement.

Chair Hill asked Commission Support staff to speak to Mr. Campbell to see what could be done to help him.

Mr. Brandon App spoke about the property at 7505 Hillview Drive. He said there was a persistent, unlicensed welding and steel fabrication operation being conducted at that residence, which had severely disrupted the local community's health, safety, and quality of life. He stated that the business had been operating there for months despite multiple complaints and enforcement actions. He noted that the disturbances not only persisted but had escalated. He reported that daily welding activities produced numerous sparks, which he warned increased the risk of accidental fires in their residential area. He was equally concerned about environmental and aesthetic impacts, which he described. He detailed conditions that detracted from the appearance of the neighborhood and created sanitation issues, including numerous attempts to place an outhouse on the corner of Margaret Drive and Hillview Drive. He listed traffic and accessibility issues that compounded the problems. Mr. App commented that, despite multiple complaints filed between March 2021 and October 2024 and several inspections and violations confirmed by Code Enforcement officers, including a confirmed violation on October 1 and a penalty issued on November 20, the business continued to operate. He determined that penalties and temporary compliance measures had failed, and the property owner had continued with unauthorized activities, which indicated that the current enforcement measures were insufficient. He surmised that the ongoing operation demonstrated a blatant disregard for County regulations and the well-being of the residential community. Given the persistent nature of the violations and the failure of previous enforcement efforts to remediate the situation, he asked the BCC to take immediate and decisive action. He urged them to issue a cease-and-desist order to halt all welding and steel fabrication activities at the address until proper licensing and zoning approvals were obtained. Furthermore, he requested the implementation of more frequent inspections and enhanced monitoring of the property. He asserted that the community deserved a safe, peaceful, and properly zoned residential environment.

Chair Hill observed that Community Outreach Coordinator Alexandra Wilson was in Chambers and would follow up with Mr. App about his concerns.

Mr. Paul White stated that in 2017, the homeless count was 80 people. He reported that between 2017 and 2024, the count increased to almost 1,800. Based on that trajectory, he predicted the homeless population would be 36,000 in 2031, which he theorized was an unmanageably high number for Reno. He compared the Cares Campus to a movie set that was made to look like a town but was a façade. He advised the Cares Campus be deeded to a coalition of churches who could operate it like the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission. He commented that the Cares Campus was violent, infested with bed bugs, and full of drugs. He spoke about the difficulty he had in getting a tour of the Cares Campus. He was concerned that a large, subsidized underclass of people was being developed that the community would not be able to support. He defined a success story as a person who was fully employed in an unsubsidized job, living on their own without subsidies, and maintaining sobriety. He theorized that the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission had more success stories in a day than the Cares Campus had since it opened, and that the Cares Campus could not provide any examples of success stories. He said the Education Crusade was working on solutions and would love to share more about their work and vision.

Ms. Amelia Gulling spoke about The Center for Nonprofit Business (The Center). She disclosed that she dedicated over two decades to working with nonprofits, specifically in capacity building, community engagement, and organizational development. She said she had seen firsthand how critical it was for mission-driven organizations to have robust support systems. She explained how deep understanding motivated her to become a founding board member of The Center, and she expressed her strong support for its mission and work. She referred to a report commissioned by the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada that she said was released in October 2024. She described that the report focused on the local community and contained key findings that echoed what The Center envisioned for the community, including skill-building opportunities for nonprofits. She said the report indicated that a majority of nonprofits in the region needed training and professional development, particularly in strategic planning, financial management, and fundraising. She said The Center aimed to cultivate greater accountability and transparency in the sector. She viewed nonprofits as businesses that needed to have the skills and professional development to thrive as such. The report also highlighted resource gaps and infrastructure needs, especially for smaller and medium-size nonprofits. She noted that without access to collective resources like accounting services and healthcare, smaller nonprofits struggled to establish those systems. She anticipated that the partnership with the Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce (The Chamber) would help with access to pooled resources. Ms. Gulling shared that she had been advised of interest from local nonprofits about collective resources, including healthcare benefits, accounting services, and human resources. The findings in the Community Foundation report showed a desire for a centralized hub that nonprofits could utilize. Ms. Gulling commented that there used to be resource centers at both the local and State levels, but they had all come to an end, and there was no longer a centralized nonprofit hub. She said she had witnessed how capacity-building efforts could transform nonprofits, help staff feel more supported, guide boards for more strategic decision-making, and enable programs to achieve higher level impact. She summarized that support for The Center represented investment beyond one entity and would be an investment in the entire ecosystem of nonprofits in the community.

Ms. Tracey Thomas provided a document, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. She advised that she was an applicant for the Board of Equalization (BOE). She acknowledged that the BOE appointment agenda item was postponed, but she disclosed that she would not be able to attend the BCC meeting the following week because she planned to attend a ceremony at 10:00 a.m. on December 17, 2024, at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) for the casting of electoral votes, which was a direct conflict with the next BCC meeting. She expressed surprise that the Commissioners were not interested in attending that ceremony. Ms. Thomas believed there were two BOE positions open and asked Commissioners to consider appointing her for the term which would end in 2028. She theorized that for a board that centered on the appeal of property values, it was important to take inventory of the strengths and backgrounds of each candidate. She was surprised to see that the other three applicants had not disclosed any experience with appraisals or local real estate. She informed Commissioners that she had seven years of experience with the local mortgage industry, wherein she processed, closed, and underwrote applications for residential financing. She said she reviewed residential

appraisals for soundness and accuracy. She mentioned that she also completed a residential appraisal class through a local community college to ensure she had a good grasp of the terminology and concepts. She spoke about the length of her residency in the County, her work experience, and the education that she thought supported her appointment.

Mr. Terry Brooks read an original poem about the production, availability, and pricing of food.

Ms. Janet Butcher spoke about accountability and efficiency. She understood people were upset about WC-1 not passing. She said that 30 years ago when the tax restriction was put in place, things were different from 2024. She theorized that the money that was restricted might have contributed to tax increases, particularly during years with any budget deficiency. She stated the County budget was 2 to 3 times the budget of other counties in the United States of similar size and supposed that with the federal government implementing the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), perhaps the County should have the department of Washoe efficiency. She recalled that budgets were talked about in the Library Board of Trustees (LBT) meetings in the past, but she noted budget reports were no longer given in that venue. She emphasized the need for accountability.

Ms. Ellen Zoscwack provided documents, copies of which were distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. She identified herself as a County resident who wanted to be actively involved in the community. She spoke about her candidacy for the Northern Nevada Public Health (NNPH) District Board of Health and her qualifications. She welcomed meetings with Commissioners and asked for their support of her application.

Ms. Kathy Drake provided a document, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. She disclosed the proximity of her residence to the proposed soccer stadium near Wedge Parkway in Agenda Item 9. She stated her opposition to the proposed stadium. She wanted Commissioners to pass a motion to obtain a formal statement from the District Attorney (DA) describing limitations on the use of the parcel and prohibiting construction of a soccer stadium.

Mr. Drew Ribar showed a video on his phone of an interaction he had with a librarian. No copy was submitted for the public record. He also displayed a document, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. He revealed that he was restricted from the library for a year because of allegations that he harmed a librarian, but he contended that violent librarians were the real problem. He mentioned the result of the vote on WC-1 and theorized that library exclusivity and a bad Library Director were part of the reason the measure failed. He spoke about a lawsuit that he filed. He believed the government needed to be constitutionally compliant. He said the libraries not only excluded him but many other people. He disclosed that he was formally trespassed when he went to a library to ask about other people who had their access restricted. He thought rules governing the activities of County agencies were unclear, and he hoped the problems could be solved. He discerned that some County employees had a political agenda and were only willing to help people

who agreed with their viewpoints.

Ms. Nancy Weyhe divulged that she resided near the parcel under consideration for development in Agenda Item 9. She expressed her preference for the creation of a public green space instead of a stadium. She remarked on the amount of development in Reno over the past decade and the resultant loss of green spaces. Ms. Weyhe spoke about the transformative power of parks in cities and compared the green space opportunity to Central Park in New York City and Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. She advocated for a forward-thinking vision and thought people would regret making the space a soccer stadium. She said the addition of more sports fields served a specific purpose for a limited audience, but green space would serve everyone.

Ms. Trista Gomez shared that she had a 29-year-old son who often accessed the library. She perceived changes in the library between the time she had her first child and her last child, and she revealed that she did not allow her youngest child to go to the library unsupervised because she could not trust what would be available to them. She acknowledged that librarians had provided help to her children, which she appreciated. She thought the BCC had a conundrum, and they had to choose whether to subvert the will of the people by assuming that voters did not fully understand what they were voting on. She warned that core performance had to be evaluated. She suggested having a Library Director from the area who helped everyone feel safe and welcome in the libraries and could manage budgets. She was concerned about a lack of fiscal accountability, which she thought created a lack of trust from the public. She summarized that everyone should feel safe in the library, processes should be efficient, and the budget should be accountable.

Ms. Jerleen Bryant, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Nevada Humane Society (NHS), asked for the BCC's consideration and support of Agenda Item 13. She explained that if the NHS was awarded the proposed funding, they would be able to reinstate a public spay and neuter program, which she deemed as critical to reestablishing pre-pandemic animal population levels. She projected that over 12,000 animals could be sterilized every year in the community with the program. She said, like many communities in the Country, the County suffered from an overpopulation of dogs and cats. She noted that overpopulation created a burden on organizations that housed those animals. She advised that the community would not be able to adopt their way out of the situation, and the only sustainable solution was to sterilize animals and mitigate unwanted pregnancies. She offered to answer any questions when the item was discussed.

Mr. Mark Markel described having been involved in a drunk driving crash in 1989, during which his vehicle rolled eight times. He said he was ejected from the vehicle and was then in a coma for a month. He disclosed that, as a result, he had a traumatic brain injury and could not care for himself. He also shared that he lost his wife because of drugs. He admitted that because of those losses, he had not felt able to celebrate Christmas for many years. He did not want other people to go through what he had been through and encouraged people not to drink and drive.

Ms. Carrie Brown introduced herself as the Clinic Manager of Options Veterinary Care (Options), which she said was the only nonprofit veterinary clinic in Northern Nevada. She spoke about the services Options provided and the populations they served. She explained that the need for affordable or free spay and neuter services had increased and was essential to keeping animals out of shelters. She supported Agenda Item 13 and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve the community.

Ms. Sandra Pazen expressed her opinions about the need for libraries. She said it was important for people to hold a book instead of looking at a screen, and she recalled the value she and her family had gleaned from libraries. She stated concern about transparency regarding the stadium proposal being discussed in Agenda Item 9, particularly the potential for increased traffic in the area. She advocated for a written statement assuring that there would never be a stadium at that location. She disclosed that she lived near the site under consideration and loved the open space there. She asked for the Commissioners' consideration.

Ms. Penny Brock displayed a document and an image, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. She recalled that at a recent South Valleys Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) meeting, a County employee promised that the South Valleys Regional Park would not be turned into a soccer stadium. She did not trust that promise and provided evidence for her conclusion. She claimed that in March 2024, the BCC voted to approve the creation of a site design, which she said was to be paid for with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. She understood the funds were ultimately taken from elsewhere. She discerned there was not transparency in communications to the people in the South Valleys. She was concerned that County staff did not address important details when they attended CAB meetings. She spoke about funding from the Pennington Foundation for the development of the South Valleys Regional Park, which she determined conflicted with the desires of Ms. Wendy Damonte, who originally gifted the land. Ms. Brock listed other funding sources for park development. Regardless of the outcome of the vote on Agenda Item 9, she requested a future agenda item and vote to affirm that the park would stay a park and not become a professional soccer stadium.

Mr. Bruce Foster displayed an image, which contained a picture and text about Emily Drabinski, former President of the American Library Association. No copy was submitted for the public record. He expressed concern about Ms. Drabinski's political views and how those views might inform her work with libraries. He objected to some books that were available within the WCLS. He determined that the WCLS was a grooming operation to promote support for gender identification, social justice, and Marxism, which he did not want to fund.

Mr. Zachary Gray introduced himself as a parent and a South Reno resident. He advocated for the South Valleys Regional Park expansion project. He stated his enthusiasm about the project and added that, as a member of the Washoe County Little League, he supported the softball field component of the project.

Ms. Rachel Story, founder and president of Feral at Heart, provided documents, copies of which were placed on file with the Clerk. Regarding Agenda Item 13, she explained that her 501(c)(3) organization focused on trap-neuter-return (TNR) efforts for feral and free-roaming cats. She said they also acted as an adoption agency for rescue partners and feral cats taken in from the streets. She reported that her agency worked with the Washoe County Regional Animal Services (WCRAS), Community Cats, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), and the Nevada Humane Society (NHS). She believed TNR was the only humane way to manage free-roaming cat populations and was the root solution to reducing the number of cats going into the WCRAS and NHS, given that the majority of kittens entering shelters originated from outdoor populations. She asked for the allocation of funds being considered in Agenda Item 13 to include small organizations like hers that directly contributed to the reduction of the cat population in the shelters.

Ms. Nancy Satmary stated that she was a native Nevadan. She spoke about her passion for the libraries. She described the empowerment she felt as a young girl when she obtained her first library card and observed everything that was available in the library. She urged Commissioners to restore funding for the WCLS and cautioned that funding cuts would severely impact staffing and services. She felt that the wording of the ballot question was confusing and misleading, and she recalled talking to people who did not understand WC-1 because of the way it was worded. She noted the margin of the vote was small on that ballot measure, and she thought it was worth considering that when choosing how to move forward. She said libraries were an essential pillar of the community, and she predicted drastic budget reductions would have a far-reaching negative impact. She detailed the ways her grandchildren accessed libraries for personal interest, research, and social purposes.

Mr. Clinton Bolt spoke about proposed plans for Rancho San Rafael Regional Park. He implored Commissioners to consider the Great Reno Balloon Races and not hinder that event in any way. He stated that the Great Reno Balloon Races were the largest balloon races in the world, and he felt that they helped Reno be recognized globally. He supposed that the event generated a lot of revenue for Reno over the course of the year. He suggested that instead of paving over additional areas of the park, Commissioners could revitalize the log flume ride that formerly operated there.

Mr. Roger Edwards provided a document, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. He revealed that he recently tried to volunteer to be an intake specialist at a polling location but was told he had to be an employee to be in that role. He recalled that volunteers used to be welcome in any part of election operations. He said he was fired from his position. He stated that he was never counseled on problems with his work and was not introduced to managers. He described that his polling location was inundated with hundreds of voters every day. He opined that problems would not be solved for the benefit of the public if matters were not discussed. He reported that the person who purportedly signed his termination notice did not know anything about it when he went into the office the next day. He thought the Registrar of Voters (ROV) Office was a mess and needed a major overhaul. He believed voters were not being served, and the issues needed attention

locally, not just from the Secretary of State's (SOS) Office.

Mr. Eaton Dunkelberger, President & CEO of the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada, spoke about Agenda Items 5D1, 5D3, and 13. He appreciated the leadership of the County in taking on complex issues with multiple agencies working together. He stated his excitement about items 5D1 and 5D3 and applauded the leadership of Behavioral Health Administrator Julia Ratti. He thanked the Commissioners for their consideration of the funding approval. Regarding the proposed allocation of ARPA funds in Agenda Item 13, he disclosed that he had worked for the Community Foundation for just over two years and consistently heard frustrations from funders, government partners, and nonprofit agencies about how the nonprofit landscape could be improved. He reported that, as a response to those frustrations, the Community Foundation built a coalition that included Community Reinvestment Manager Gabrielle Enfield, UNR Assistant Professor of Public Administration Brad Johnson, and Redfield Foundation Executive Director Ken Coll with the purpose of studying the issues and figuring out strategies to move forward. He informed that the Community Foundation released a study in October 2024 which highlighted the need for a centralized resource for nonprofits. He said The Center was designed to be that centralized resource and was realized through Mr. Jeff Bryant, Ms. Christi Cakiroglu, and the leadership of The Chamber. Mr. Dunkelberger thanked Ms. Enfield and the BCC for their funding support and time.

Mr. Marc Radow, president of Battle Born Football Club, expressed his appreciation for people coming out to be part of the process of shaping the community. He said the process gave the BCC certain responsibilities and authorities. He recalled that earlier in the week, County staff provided assurance about the future of the South Valleys Regional Park, but he noted there was tremendous distrust from the community. He thought the BCC had a perfect opportunity to create trust. He conveyed that he had previously asked the BCC for clarity on the matter, and he stated his concern that the South Valleys Regional Park could pivot from a park to a stadium, even if that was not the original intent. He mentioned that sketches about a future stadium contributed to his concerns. He clarified that he was glad there would be a sports field for softball, but he supposed a stadium could come in at a later time. He reported that he constantly heard rumors that a stadium would come to the South Valleys Regional Park. He urged Commissioners to put the question of a stadium on an agenda and vote against its construction. He concluded that everyone supported a park but opposed a stadium in that location.

Mr. Wes Mewes introduced himself as a native Nevadan and District 2 constituent. He spoke about Agenda Item 9. He supported infrastructure improvements at the South Valleys Regional Park and felt that the proposed expansion of the park honored the original intent of the land grant. He discerned that the expansion, including the field set aside for female athletes and the Washoe Little League, was in line with the Master Plan for the County. He noted that many topics had come up about the soccer stadium. He theorized that the only way to ensure that there was no change to how the proposal was currently configured was to move forward with the plan and begin work on the park, thereby utilizing the funds that had been granted to move into Phase Two of the expansion. He believed there was an opportunity to create something beautiful. He mentioned that he

volunteered on a number of boards in Washoe County and was a father of two children who benefitted from the Washoe Little League program. He implored Commissioners to approve Agenda Item 9.

Ms. Kit Di Carlo said she was a County resident and loved the WCLS. She shared that libraries got her through many school projects, and she appreciated the system. She clarified that she did not support the direction the WCLS was going, and she cited books shown by a prior commenter as representative of her concerns. She felt that it was dangerous to aim books of that type to the age demographic they were being targeted towards. She determined it was the role of adults to protect children and their innocence. She thought books of that type were a direct threat to children's natural development and matured them too quickly. Ms. Di Carlo viewed it as extremely offensive when people supposed County citizens did not know what they were voting for. She surmised that assertion implied that people were too stupid to understand WC-1. She cautioned that if the BCC voted to reinstate the funds, it would defy the will of the people and mute their voices. She expressed her lack of support for a soccer stadium. She warned it would be dangerous for the community. She revealed that she had recently gone to Las Vegas for a work trip and reported that people she spoke with stated dissatisfaction with a new professional football stadium there. They said that the professional stadium decreased their quality of life because of increased crime and traffic. She added that tourists did not take care of the land like locals. She predicted the addition of a soccer stadium near Wedge Parkway would have similar effects and warned that Northern Nevada was already a capital for sex trafficking. She feared that adding a professional stadium would make things more dangerous for the women and children in the community.

Ms. Cherie Jamason shared that she was the CEO of the Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN) for 32 years. She recalled that during her tenure at the FBNN, several entities existed that enabled nonprofit executives, board members, and staff to learn the skills needed to run an accountable, focused, well-funded, and well-governed organization. She said those entities included a nonprofit center run by United Way, a continuing education program through UNR, and at least two more organizations that brought training and capacity-building resources to nonprofit leaders throughout Northern Nevada. She described the United Way Standard of Excellence program, which she advised became the standard by which funders measured local nonprofit organizations. She revealed that the certification program was no longer available due to a shift in priorities. She reported that she retired in 2020, and when she was approached to be on the board for The Center, she learned that all of those resources had disappeared over the course of four years. She explained there was nowhere in the community for new CEOs and executive directors to learn the skills needed to be excellent and accountable leaders. She believed the funding being considered for The Center would underwrite the first steps in building back the capacity-building resources that were lost.

County Clerk Jan Galassini advised the Board she received emailed public comments which were placed on file.

11:30 a.m. **The Board recessed.**

11:40 a.m. **The Board reconvened with all members present.**

24-0793 **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

County Manager Eric Brown reported there were two at-large positions opening on the Debt Management Commission (DMC). He noted applications closed on December 31, 2024. He commented that those interested should refer to the website and file an application. He explained there was an opening for the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission (OSRPC). He communicated that for those concerned about the potential stadium at South Valleys Regional Park or the Master Plan at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park, the OSRPC oversaw the expansion and park proceedings. He indicated the application for the OSRPC closed on December 23, 2024. He said that Item 9 was the expansion of the South Valleys Regional Park to provide requested public amenities, additional flat fields, baseball and softball fields, restrooms, and picnic areas. He stated it had nothing to do with a stadium. He informed the public the County was not considering a stadium proposal or appeal. He felt the process through the OSRPC had been open and transparent. He advised the meetings had minutes for reference. He believed if an individual was interested in getting more involved with the OSRPC, they were welcome to apply to the board.

Vice Chair Herman indicated she attended a meeting that week, and a Registrar of Voters (ROV) candidate was discussed. She was excited to be on the board. She felt the board was successful in unanimously selecting a candidate. She was anxiously waiting for the outcome of the meeting. She believed the board had done its work.

Chair Hill thanked Vice Chair Herman for the update.

Commissioner Andriola recognized Chief Financial Officer Abbe Yacoben, County Treasurer Justin Taylor, and their team for moving forward with the transparent State checkbook model that the State Treasurer introduced. She appreciated that Washoe County was considering holding a workshop as the budget was put together to ensure everyone was well informed. She felt it was an opportunity to support the Board of County Commissioners' (BCC) commitment to transparency. She reported the workshop should occur in early 2025. She indicated the budget was close to being finalized and asked the public to look for it. She believed Washoe County had great communication.

Chair Hill thanked Commissioner Andriola for her leadership.

Commissioner Clark noticed Item 5C2 was pulled regarding the contract for senior meals. He said the food the seniors were served was subpar. He opined the jail, Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada, Douglas County, and Carson City prepared better food than Washoe County. He stated that he never said Washoe County should be the best; however, Washoe County should not be in last place. He tasted the food on a regular basis and felt it was not something individuals would want to serve to their families. He was

confused as to why the item was pulled. He asked for the proposals from the other vendors because he was told he could not see them when the contracts were out due to security risks. He was bewildered as to why a sitting commissioner could not see the bids.

Commissioner Clark addressed library budget cuts and thought people were trying to comingle different things. He indicated there were 128,000 individuals who were able to read the ballot properly and voted as such. He believed if the BCC voted to change the will of the people, it would disenfranchise voters. He was a big supporter of libraries and thought the library would continue to flourish. He said he supported the library but also supported the people who voted. He commented that he would support the Library Board of Trustees (LBT) because the LBT was elected by the BCC to handle the issues of the library. He felt the LBT needed to handle the situation and review the budget; then, the BCC could make a decision based on a presentation from the LBT. He felt that the public asking the BCC to take away the will of the people was not something he would take part in. He believed that people could figure the ballot question out themselves and that the public voted to change the policy. He speculated some people would not have voted for it if they had known they were not being told the full facts. He thought people from 30 years ago were now disenfranchised. He believed it needed to be made clear to the Library Director that he was given two years to work on the language of the ballot measure with the people. He stated people were dissatisfied with how the library was going, and the vote was the people's way to voice their opinion.

Commissioner Clark understood there was someone in the audience who wanted to provide a bid and their bid was not accepted or looked at. He would like to find out more information before voting on the park's plan. He agreed with Mr. Paul White's comment regarding concerns at the Cares Campus. He believed there were a lot of problems at the Cares Campus and that he and the citizens could not find answers to their questions. He thought there was a lack of transparency regarding the Cares Campus. He would like to know more about the outcomes and told the BCC to review Mr. White's comments.

Commissioner Clark reported that Ms. Tracey Hilton-Thomas wanted to be considered for the Board of Equalization (BOE). He felt it was an extremely important position and said the County recently settled a lawsuit that took place many years ago. He reported the County Assessor overvalued property and it caused the County to owe \$50 million in overpaid taxes. He indicated that amount could be a higher number and noted it was a lot of money due to the BOE and the Assessor's Office. He announced the filing date for property tax disputes was January 15, 2025. He encouraged everyone on the Fourth Street corridor to have their properties reevaluated. He thought there was an external influence that devalued a lot of property around the Cares Campus. He believed that property owners had been harmed, and it needed to be addressed. He commented that it should be at the forefront of the BOE in February. He hoped the BCC understood the importance of the appointments.

Commissioner Clark addressed Ms. Trista Gomez's comments regarding the BCC having a conundrum with the library. He believed the BCC appointed board

members to the LBT and the LBT should be entrusted with their job. He felt the LBT Chair should be able to review the budget and bring recommendations to the BCC. He questioned how much was spent on security at the libraries. He recited there was a mercury spill at the Spanish Springs Library and said there were no security cameras around the library's property. He asked why the County would not protect the citizens' assets.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – 5A1 THROUGH 5E3 EXCLUDING AGENDA ITEM 5C2

- 24-0794** **5A1** Recommendation to 1) approve roll change requests, pursuant to NRS 361.765 and/or NRS 361.768, for errors discovered on the 2021/2022, 2022/2023, 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 secured and unsecured tax rolls 2) authorize Chair to execute the changes described in Exhibits A and B and 3) direct the Washoe County Treasurer to correct the error(s). [cumulative amount of decrease to all taxing entities \$47,170.19]. Assessor. (All Commission Districts.)
- 24-0795** **5B1** Recommendation to approve a Grant of Easement Agreement [at a value of \$1.00] and a Line Extension Agreement [at a service advance of \$43,481.00] between Washoe County and Sierra Pacific Power Company, a Nevada corporation, d/b/a NV Energy for Washoe County owned property located at 1240 E. 9th Street, Reno, NV 89512 on parcel number 008-171-40, and authorize Eric Crump to enter into both agreements. These agreements support the electrical needs and capital project delivery of a new Tuberculosis Clinic, which is a key component of the County's public health infrastructure. Community Services. (Commission District 3.)
- 24-0796** **5B2** Recommendation to acknowledge payment to Titan Electrical for \$39,900.00 for work performed in October 2023 in which competitive solicitation requirements pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 332.063 and payment deadlines pursuant to NRS 244.250 were not met. The work consisted of the replacement of a damaged traffic signal pole and mast at the corner of State Route (SR) 28 and Country Club Drive in the Incline Village area of Washoe County. Community Services. (Commission District 1.)
- 24-0797** **5C1** Recommendation to accept an FY25 Federal Title IV-B Subpart 2, Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) grant subawards from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of [\$206,946.00; \$68,982.00 county match] for the Adoption Promotion and Support Services, [\$67,222.00; \$22,407.00 county match] for Family Preservation Services, [\$67,222.00; \$22,407.00 county match] for Family Reunification Services, and [\$60,500.00; \$20,167.00 county match] for Family Support Services retroactive for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 to prevent child maltreatment, enable children to remain safely with their families, and ensure permanency for children in foster care;

authorize the Director of Human Services Agency to execute the grant subawards; and direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)

24-0798 **5C2** Recommendation to award a contract procured via Request for Proposals (RFP) #3255-24 to TRIO Community Meals, LLC in support of the Washoe County Human Services Agency Nutrition Programs, including congregate and home delivered meals for Senior Services, shelf stable meals, the daily soup program, and meals for the Our Place Campus and the JOY Home, retroactively for the original term period of October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2026, in an amount not to exceed [\$3,100,000.00] per year for each year of the original two year term, with the provision for up to four (4), one (1) year renewals with contract rate increases as defined in the agreement; and if approved authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the Agreement and related documents. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)

24-0799 **5D1** Recommendation in accordance with NRS 244.1505, to approve FY25 Community Support grant award to the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada to support the Regional Behavioral Health Initiatives Fund, in the amount of [\$20,000]; approve Resolution R24-106 for the same; and direct Finance to make the budget appropriation disbursements.

The Regional Behavioral Health Initiatives Fund accepts donations and contributions designated to support the region's efforts to build out an improved behavioral health Crisis Response System. Manager. (All Commission Districts.)

24-0800 **5D2** Recommendation to approve, pursuant to NRS 244.1505, Commission District Special Fund disbursement in the amount of [\$63,235.00] for Fiscal Year 2024-2025; District 1 Commissioner Alexis Hill recommends a [\$25,000.00] grant to Truckee North Tahoe/Transportation Management Association (TNT/TMA) -- a government entity -- to support North Lake Tahoe Express Airport Shuttle (NLTE); and a [\$20,000.00] grant to Tahoe Fund -- a nonprofit organization created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes -- for the educational Take Care Tahoe winter and summer billboards; and a [\$10,000.00] grant to Tahoe Fund -- a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes -- to support the Lake Tahoe Destination Stewardship Council; and a [\$5,000.00] grant to Washoe County Community Services Department - a government entity-- to support Clean Tahoe professional fees; and a [\$2,235.00] grant to Washoe County Community Services Department: Open Spaces and Parks - a government entity - to cover the parks fees at the Hawkins Amphitheater for Gospelfest; and a [\$1,000.00] grant to Education Renaissance of Nevada Initiative - a nonprofit organization created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes - to support the Spellbinders

Festival; approve Resolutions necessary for same; ; and direct Finance and the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary disbursements of funds, cross-functional and or cross-fund budget appropriation transfer, and the necessary unbudgeted transfer. Manager. (Commission District 1.)

- 24-0801** **5D3** Recommendation to (1) accept a grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, in the amount of [\$136,394, no match] to support the region's efforts to build out an improved behavioral health Crisis Response System and support other regional behavioral health initiatives, (2) direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments, and (3) authorize Human Resources to make the necessary changes for the creation of one new full-time 1.0 FTE Management Analyst position, pay grade 16, (Office of the County Manager), as reviewed and evaluated by the Job Evaluation Committee (JEC)-since position is grant funded, if grant funding is reduced or eliminated, the position hours will be reduced and/or the position will be abolished accordingly unless additional funding is secured; new position is 100% financed with the above referenced grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada with primary responsibility for facilitation the Crisis Response System and other behavioral health initiatives of regional significance. Manager. (All Commission Districts.)
- 24-0802** **5E1** Recommendation to acknowledge Receipt of updated and corrected Status Reports of the Commissary Fund set up per NRS 211.360 to be utilized for the welfare and benefit of the inmates for items such as counseling, chaplaincy services, vocational training, and certifications programs for inmates in the jail, submitted by the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Commissary Committee for the Third, and Fourth Quarters for Fiscal Year 2023, and the First Quarter for Fiscal Year 2024. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)
- 24-0803** **5E2** Recommendation to acknowledge Receipt of Status Report of Commissary Fund set up per NRS 211.360 to be utilized for the welfare and benefit of the inmates for items such as counseling, chaplaincy services, vocational training, and certifications programs for inmates in the jail, submitted by the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Commissary Committee for the Second, Third and Fourth Quarters for Fiscal Year 2024. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)
- 24-0804** **5E3** Recommendation to authorize the grant application for the 2024 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Award (ALN#16.738), Office of Justice Programs, and Bureau of Justice Assistance through the Reno Police Department for the grant period of October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2027. With this funding the WCSO's anticipated award will be [\$84,656.80, no County match required] for the purchase of Law Enforcement equipment, Law Enforcement related training and travel; and approve the Interlocal

Agreement between the City of Reno, on behalf of the Reno Police Department, Washoe County, on behalf of the Washoe County Sheriff's Office and the City of Sparks, on behalf of the Sparks Police Department for the management and disposition of 2024 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

On the call for public comment, Ms. Penny Brock felt it was good that Item 5C2 was pulled because there was a problem with the food provider. She asked how many bids there were. She was concerned that the proposal was a two-year contract with four one-year renewals. She felt that meant it would be a six-year contract. She believed the best contract in the business world would be a one or two-year contract which kept the vendor responsive. She speculated the horrible meals at the Senior Center were due to the potential for six-year contracts. She reported Commissioner Clark posted photos on his Facebook page of meals from the Senior Center, and she believed a person would not feed it to their dog. She felt the food was outrageous, and there was no excuse. She was flabbergasted the contract was \$3.1 million and asked how many seniors it fed. She thought the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) would want to pride themselves on finding the best vendor to provide the best meals. She noted there were over 100,000 seniors in Washoe County and many of them did not go to the Senior Center because of the food. She mentioned many seniors needed the meal, and she was unsure where they were going to get it. She questioned who was sending out and looking at the bids. She commented the BCC should ensure the bidding process was done correctly and thought the BCC's reputation was dependent upon it.

On motion by Commissioner Andriola, seconded by Chair Hill, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote, with Commissioner Garcia absent, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 5A1 through 5E3 be approved, excluding tabled Item 5C2. Any and all Resolutions or Interlocal Agreements pertinent to Consent Agenda Items 5A1 through 5E3, excluding tabled Item 5C2, are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

24-0805 **AGENDA ITEM 6** Recommendation to acknowledge receipt of the Washoe County Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), auditor's report, and report on internal control for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 as presented; approve the re-appropriation of [\$41,822,481.55] for the fiscal year 2025 budget, consisting of [\$14,807,504.04] for purchase order encumbrances committed in fiscal year 2024 and [\$27,014,977.51] for spending of restricted contributions and fees; and, authorize the Comptroller to proceed with distribution of the ACFR for public record, as required by law. Comptroller. (All Commission Districts.)

Washoe County Comptroller Cathy Hill introduced Accounting Manager Robert Andrews and Eide Bailey Senior Manager Laura Nelson. She thanked Eide Bailey and Ms. Nelson, and Ms. Nelson's team for their assistance with the complex audit. She expressed appreciation for Mr. Andrews and his team for their financial reporting and the complexities associated with the programs the County offered and the federal funding the County received. She mentioned the fund balance increased slightly over the previous

financial year, with a portion of it associated with the Korn Ferry adjustments, contract negotiations, and consolidated tax (c-tax) remaining relatively flat. She noted those were high expenses that left the general fund flat.

Ms. Nelson represented Eide Bailey in the audit performed over fiscal year (FY) 2024 and the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for Washoe County. She reported there were three separate reports as part of the ACFR. She explained the first was the audit opinion which was pages 2 through 5 of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. She mentioned they issued an unmodified audit opinion which was the highest level of assurance Eide Bailey provided.

Ms. Nelson noted the second report issued was regarding internal controls over financial reporting listed on page C2 of the ACFR. She indicated it identified any internal control deficiencies. She said they were classified as either significant deficiencies or material weaknesses depending on the level of severity. She commented that Eide Bailey identified three material weaknesses through the audit. She explained the first was related to an unreported accounts payable (AP) liability. The second was related to proper revenue recognition. The third was related to the proper recording of leases and software subscriptions under the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) 87 and 96. She reported all material issues were corrected by Washoe County. She recounted the revenue recognition finding and GASB 87 and 96 were very common among governmental agencies. She felt that GASB did not make it easy for governments regarding those issues.

Ms. Nelson stated the third report was on each major program and internal controls over uniform guidance located on page C4 of the ACFR. She summarized it was a report over the single audit of the major programs Eide Bailey did. She said Washoe County's schedule of expenditures of federal awards had over \$89 million of expenditures that year. She divulged Eide Bailey audited four major programs: Emergency Rental Assistance, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, Adoption Assistance, and Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Diseases for FY 2024. She expressed they identified four findings and said two were over the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, with the first regarding sub-recipient monitoring. She detailed there were specific requirements when submitting the assistance listing number to the sub-recipient at the time of payment, which did not always happen, and monitoring single audits for sub-recipients. She noted the second finding was over-reporting, where certain amounts in quarterly reports did not tie to underlying support. She mentioned the last two findings were about the Emergency Rental Assistance Program regarding eligibility due to one month selected where there was no documentation over the determination of eligibility. She said that was a result of the program not having enough time to correct its findings from the previous audit. She noted that finding had been corrected mid-FY 2024. She concluded the last finding was regarding reporting, as certain numbers on the report did not tie to the underlying documentation.

Ms. Nelson reported no findings were found for Adoption Assistance and Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Diseases. She provided context that in FY 2023, the single audit identified 9 findings, but there were only 4 for FY 2024, with

one already corrected. She believed Washoe County made considerable efforts to increase compliance with major program requirements. She thanked Ms. Hill, Mr. Andrews, and their staff for being excellent to work with, professional, and efficient in providing what was needed. She said it was a huge process to issue the ACFR and audit. She appreciated the partnership.

Chair Hill congratulated staff on the unmodified opinion and felt it was a considerable feat. She believed it was a complex job, with almost \$90 million in federal funds and only three minor issues, she was impressed.

Commissioner Andriola recognized Ms. Hill for her participation and transparency. She thanked Ms. Hill and Eide Bailey for the efficiency of the audit delivery. She felt GASB and regulations were interesting; therefore, going from nine to four minor issues was an improvement. She believed knowing the errors were corrected and there were internal controls in place should give the public assurance that Washoe County had a well-equipped leadership and team.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Andriola, seconded by Vice Chair Herman, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote, with Commissioner Garcia absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 6 be acknowledged, approved, and authorized.

* * * * *

Chair Hill indicated Agenda Item 7 and 11 were tabled and would be heard on December 17, 2024.

* * * * *

24-0806 **AGENDA ITEM 7** Recommendation to appoint two candidates from a pool of applicants including: Michael Gratz, Rost Olsen, Tracey Thomas, and Corinthia Yancey to fill two vacancies on the Washoe County Board of Equalization with one term beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2026, and the other term beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2028. Clerk. (All Commission Districts.)

This item was tabled.

24-0809 **AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommendation to accept two subgrant awards from the State of Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division for the following Older Americans Act Title III Programs: (1) Congregate Meals [\$278,105.25; \$41,716.00 county match] retroactively from October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025; and (2) Home Delivered Meals [\$841,084.63; \$126,163.00 county match] retroactively from October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025; authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency

to execute the grant award documents; and direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)

This item was tabled.

BLOCK VOTE – 9 THROUGH 14, EXCLUDING ITEM 11

24-0807 **AGENDA ITEM 9** Recommendation to: (1) award a bid and approve the Agreement to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder for the South Valleys Regional Park Expansion Project, PWP-WA-2025-006, [staff recommends Sierra Nevada Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$2,365,007.00]; and (2) approve a separate project contingency fund in the amount of \$153,250.00, for a total project cost of \$2,516,257.00; and direct the Finance Office to make the necessary cross-fund and cross-functional budget appropriation transfers. Community Services. (Commission District 2.)

On the call for public comment, Ms. Penny Brock believed Mr. Nate Evans should have spoken before her because his company, Integrated Concepts, made a bid on the project but was left off. She felt that was not right and recommended the item be tabled for Mr. Evans's bid to be considered. She asked why Integrated Concepts was left off because the owner was one of her neighbors in the South Valleys and she liked supporting local businesses. She indicated Mr. Evans made this information public at the South Valleys Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) meeting the previous Thursday. She felt it was important to bring the concern to the Board of County Commissioners' (BCC) attention. She felt the County should be concerned. She indicated a County staff member attended the meeting and speculated the staff member may have informed the BCC. She asked about the road design and stated Ms. Wendy Damonte requested the road to connect South Virginia through the Pioneer Trailer Park owned by the Damonte Family. She was informed there would not be a road and questioned why it was in the design.

Mr. Evans with Integrated Concepts noted he had worked for all the largest companies and had been a superintendent as well. He mentioned a few years ago, he had started his own company, and they were slowly growing. He indicated he went on the website DemandStar for the bid. He kept checking the site, and it continued to say it was under review, and then it disappeared. He received a call from a friend who told him the item was on the agenda to be awarded to Sierra Nevada Construction (SNC). He recited SNC's bid and said he did not know there were 39 bidders. He commented his bid was \$2,298,000, which was roughly \$67,000 lower than SNC. He said his company was very capable and responsible. He took pride in their work and would be honored to do the job if the BCC gave Integrated Concepts the opportunity. He communicated he lived in the community near the South Valleys Regional Park.

Mr. Dan Gallagher has been involved with Washoe Little League since 2016, has been a board member since 2018, and served as league president from 2021 to

2023. He was also a founding member of the Washoe Little League Softball Division. He implored the BCC to support Item 9. He indicated the Washoe Little League had been active for 65 years; for 62 years, it had only offered baseball. He noted that in 2021, the Washoe Little League had expanded to softball with 85 girls. He reported the previous spring had 250 girls with over 200 percent growth. He expected more attendees the following spring. He recited that when he was president, he reached out to County staff and officials to ask how the Master Plan could be fulfilled. He believed the Washoe Little League needed new fields for programs. He felt funding was the answer and that the Washoe Little League had worked with staff for the past three years to find funding. He stated their break was when the BCC allocated \$2 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in 2023, and if it did not get encumbered by the end of 2024, it would go back to the federal government. He felt it was important and to complement the \$2 million, the Pennington Foundation approved \$3.5 million for building softball fields. He indicated that in the past eight years, South Reno had two elementary schools and one middle school built with zero youth sports facilities. He deemed there was no investment, and it was long overdue. He referred to all the factors that would assist in engagement and fundraising for the fields. He disclosed that he had a meeting at his house, and the community had a plan for an additional \$1 million for lights, scoreboards, and bleachers. He surmised the vote would have a generational impact. He did not want the lowest bidder to make the community lose \$2 million worth of benefits. He said that when he was president, he had met with generations of boys who received the benefit, and he believed the girls deserved the benefit as well. He implored the BCC to vote yes.

Mr. Marc Radow noted Item 9 was an award and not an allocation of funding. He felt the BCC had a duty to serve the people and their best interests. He indicated the priorities of the BCC were the lowest, most responsive, and responsible bid. He believed that money could easily corrupt integrity, character, and direction. He said the DemandStar system demonstrated 39 bids. He mentioned the actual bid was not \$2.3 million but was \$2.5 million. He displayed a list of different bids that were presented along with additional allocation of funds. He reported the document only showed six bids which was a stark contrast to Mr. Evans' comments. He asked where the other bids went. He stated the situation showed the distrust he previously spoke about. He addressed the \$2.2 million bid from Integrated Concepts, which was a total savings of nearly \$300,000. He communicated that savings were 10 percent of the project and that money could go further to benefit the community. He described it as a lower-cost bid but that it was more responsive and responsible. He felt Mr. Evans had a lot of work experience and that the project would be easily within his control. He requested the BCC represent the community and deliver to the lowest cost bid.

Ms. Terry Farrell noted she was not in support of a soccer stadium at South Valleys Regional Park.

Ms. Kathy Drake was concerned about the bids for the infrastructure in the South Valleys Regional Park. She recommended the BCC table the approval. She felt it needed more discovery to see what happened with the bids. She would like to know what disenfranchised Integrated Concepts and asked if there were irregularities. She noted the

savings when comparing SNC and their contingency was \$2.5 million. She said Integrated Concepts would be a \$225,000 difference. She wanted her money spent correctly and wanted to be sure that everyone had a chance to bid if it was done in the proper form, time, and qualifications.

Mr. Kevin Annis was a Washoe Little League board member, softball coach, and proud girl dad. He asked the BCC to approve Item 9. He felt softball was a fast-growing sport, and that Washoe Little League had grown to be larger than most of the local baseball leagues. He reported the team did a good job representing the community in San Bernardino, California. He indicated other leagues had their own facilities, and the girls' softball league deserved one, too. He recited that if the funds were not used by the end of the year, the money would be lost. He believed the BCC was there to speak on behalf of the people, and their mindset should be the same as the staff. He commented that County staff recommended moving forward with the bidder. He did not speak on the bidders' behalf or the \$67,000. He affirmed that the staff he dealt with over the previous two years had been amazing, responsive, and respectful. He trusted the staff's opinion and felt the BCC should do the same. He questioned if the BCC did not approve the staff's recommendation then what did that portray about the staff the BCC employed. He appreciated the BCC and asked them to vote yes on Item 9.

Commissioner Andriola believed for the sake of transparency that County Manager Eric Brown should discuss the process and legal obligations of the bidding.

Manager Brown said Division Director of Engineering and Capital Projects Dwayne Smith was available to discuss the process.

Mr. Smith noted he was not prepared to discuss the complete process of the bidding. He mentioned the Community Services Department (CSD) followed all Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and County policies during the bid advertisement, opening, and recommendation processes. He indicated the bidding processes were considered sacrosanct and were consistent. He said that in the past, when an issue was found, they adjusted and made corrections. He explained CSD received six bids for the project and said they utilized DemandStar. He reported DemandStar was used by many agencies across the Nation and allowed for a transparent process. He felt bidding was complicated and that there were a lot of steps in the process. He believed the steps allowed for the protection of the bidders and Washoe County.

Mr. Smith displayed the Bid Tabulation, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. He said it was put on DemandStar, and it showed all the items that were identified, which the contractors needed to acknowledge. He explained bid tabs were important and that there was a company certification form that identified the owners of the company ensuring their signature on the bid was a legal document. He communicated the bid bond was a requirement in the event the contractor withdrew their bid or could not complete the process. He stated there was a 5 percent list of sub-contractors that bidders utilized for their projects. He deemed it was an issue a while back, and the NRS was updated to allow for transparency in the sub-contractors. He recited that five or six years

ago, NRS was updated, and there was a project that did not submit the five percent sub-contractor list, and Association of General Contractors (AGC) Craig Madole discussed it during a BCC meeting.

He said there were a lot of other elements required to be submitted in a complete bid package so CSD could deem the bidder responsive and responsible and there were six bids that met those requirements. He advised the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the project based on the confirmed submitted bids, was SNC. He confirmed that in DemandStar, there was a spreadsheet that was not a complete bid package. He believed there was a lot of misunderstanding about what that was; therefore, when staff received it, there was a lack of clarity. He detailed that because of the lack of clarity, it was not included in the review of the responsive and responsible bidders. He revealed there were not 39 bidders and said if there had been, he would be ecstatic. He divulged CSD was fortunate to have six on this project. He believed in previous staff reports, there were instances of one bidder that met the requirements. He said if someone visited DemandStar, they could look at the bid, other bidders, and addendums. He specified there were five addendums in this project, and those needed to be acknowledged by the bidder for it to be a complete bid. He understood there could be confusion about 39 lines in DemandStar and hoped he provided clarity on that. He said the County held partnerships with contractors in very high regard and was happy to work with Integrated Concepts and any other contractor as they moved through the process and the requirements. He wanted to make sure contractors had opportunities to bid on Washoe County projects successfully.

Commissioner Andriola believed there was always a misunderstanding of the terminology of responsible versus compliant. She thought Mr. Smith's comment about the complexity of bidding was true. She saw the dedication of the staff and Mr. Smith. She was grateful for Mr. Smith offering to help Mr. Evans and other contractors. She felt it important for the record to be clear that there was a legal responsibility and process that needed to be followed. She indicated the process was fair, open, and transparent. She deemed it important to ensure everyone understood the terms were not vernacular but were used in a complex process. She explained that sometimes being the lowest responsible bidder did not mean the lowest bidder due to complexity. She speculated there was assurance to be a good steward of the taxpayer dollar. She asked Mr. Smith if bidders were formally notified when their bids were unsuccessful.

Mr. Smith indicated a letter was sent to the apparent lowest responsive and responsible bidder that the item would be brought to the BCC for consideration. He noted bulk mailings or phone calls were typically not made to other bidders, but it could be something to consider. He explained that information should be available on DemandStar. He mentioned if there was a challenge in that process, he would be happy to help with the navigation of that.

Commissioner Andriola asked Mr. Smith if it was clear to all bidders that

there was a closure and award date for contractors to see the outcome.

Mr. Smith believed there was an opportunity to enhance communication with all bidders. He said CSD worked with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder at the time that CSD conformed the bids. He commented that during part of the process, the bidder had to submit additional documentation. He did not believe it was a standard of practice to reach out to every bidder, but it was something CSD was willing to discuss.

Commissioner Andriola did not wish to burden CSD but recommended they discuss communication options. She understood everyone in Washoe County was busy and balancing competing priorities, but she felt it was also the responsibility of the contractor to go online and see where they stood. She appreciated the explanation and hard work.

Commissioner Clark thanked Mr. Smith for the clarification. He felt if somebody went to a County meeting and thought they had a bid that was less than the proposed bid, he wanted them to have clarification. He noted it was now transparent and on the public record. He mentioned it was good for Mr. Evans and Mr. Smith to have that information and discussion. He understood the public's comments, but inquiries and allegations needed to be made on record for them to understand. He said it was a \$67,000 difference in the bid, but it could have been a lot more. He thought the BCC had done what they needed to do.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote, with Commissioner Garcia absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 9 be awarded, approved, and directed.

24-0808 **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation to approve a resolution to augment the Capital Improvements Fund in the amount of [\$13,334,827.76] and the Parks Capital Projects Fund in the amount of [\$1,134,495.59] to increase revenue, expenditure, and transfer authority for capital projects for fiscal year 2025 in accordance with Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 354.598005. The augmentation will utilize unappropriated ending fiscal year 2024 fund balance to increase budget authority of carry-over projects as well as increases to District Court Capital Expansion, Major Maintenance, Melio Gaspari Water Park Safety Improvements and Lifestyle Homes reimbursement; and direct Finance to make the appropriate budget amendments. Finance. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote, with Commissioner Garcia absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be approved and directed.

24-0810

AGENDA ITEM 12 Recommendation to deobligate previously approved allocations of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) in the amount of [\$328,198.62] for projects that have been completed under budget, cancelled, or no longer need the previously approved levels of funding: Sun Valley Recreation Revitalization GID by \$59.48, Public Health Technology Upgrade by \$110.82, Sheriff's Office Deputy Sheriff's Positions by \$75,651.52, Incline Village Justice Court Renovations \$15,288.52, SLFRF ARPA Accountant \$22,933.00, Immigrant Outreach and Advocacy \$1,270.49, Washoe County Recruitment Incentive Program \$5,842.57, Gerlach Affordable Housing \$162,932.50, District Attorney's Office Facility Improvements \$37,381.63, ReDirect Youth Outreach & Boxing \$230.59, Creating Community Resilience Through Youth Empowerment \$6,497.50.

And, if approved, direct Finance to make necessary net-zero cross-fund and/or cross-functional budget appropriation transfers and budget amendment. Manager. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote, with Commissioner Garcia absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 12 be deobligated, approved, and directed.

24-0811

AGENDA ITEM 13 Recommendation, in accordance with NRS 244.1505, to approve allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) in the total amount of [\$1,219,519], approve associated resolutions, and authorize the County Manager to sign necessary award documents, for the following eight projects awarded to government entities or nonprofit organizations created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes:

1. Golden Eagle/Spanish Springs Shooting Range - Office of the County Manager, in the amount of \$80,000, to support a Plan of Development necessary for making application to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for a Recreation and Public Purpose (R&PP) lease, and to initiate an environmental review to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements to institute a safe recreation shooting area.

2. The Center for Nonprofit Business - Nonprofit Capacity Building, in the amount of \$50,000 to support development of a website that will function as a regional nonprofit resource hub, providing a source to find local capacity building service providers and resources like trainings, documents, guides, and tools, and to develop and conduct training to increase nonprofit capacity, and approve Resolution R24-103

3. Nevada Humane Society - Community Spay & Neuter Project, in the amount of \$600,000, to support the operation of a public high-volume, spay/neuter program. This funding will support 4,000 spay/neuter surgeries in the first year and 5,600 spay/neuter surgeries the following year reducing the number of unwanted animal births annually in our community, and approve Resolution R24-95

4. Options Veterinary Care - Access to Spay/Neuter Services for Washoe County Residents, in the amount of \$200,000, to support a minimum of 3,200 animals to receive spay/neuter surgery, and approve Resolution R24-104

5. Gerlach General Improvement District, Facility Improvements, in the amount of \$162,932, to support projects consisting of improvements to GGID facilities 1) GGID Community Center, energy efficient windows and doors, LED lighting and a heat pump HVAC system, 2) a Quonset hut foundation and concrete repairs at the GGID transfer station; 3) an eye wash station and an emergency shower at the GGID town shop; 4) an anemometer to be installed at the GGID water treatment plant; 5) and purchase of a Sewer Jetter and brush mower for the maintenance of GGID lands and systems. Remaining funds, if any, will be used to support foundation repairs for the historic Gerlach water tower, and approve Resolution R24-105

6. Two Hearts Community Development - Supportive Service Planning in the amount of \$14,333 to provide proposal assistance and supportive service plans, related to regional AB310 proposals. State of Nevada, AB310 appropriates \$32.2 million to be used to develop supportive housing, build capacity of nonprofits to deliver supportive services, and to measure outcomes of supportive housing. Two Hearts Community Development, LLC, in collaboration with the Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) and the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), are developing a supportive service workforce training program. AB310 is providing statewide funding for permanent supportive housing (PSH) applicants to develop and test high fidelity wrap around services. This contract supports activities provided to Washoe County providers applications to the State of Nevada to help PSH projects strengthen their AB310 funding proposals by leveraging existing, underutilized resources in Northern Nevada.

Recommendation to approve an increased allocation to these previously approved projects:

7. Increase funding for the Fitness Courts - Rancho San Rafael & South Valleys Regional Park by \$12,000 for a total of \$511,568 increased construction costs for the shade structures.

8. Increased funding for the Our Home contract by \$100,254 to extend the

service agreement through February 2025. The Our Home facility serves community members suffering with severe mental illness, or intellectual or developmental disabilities who have not been able to access the supportive housing resources.

And, if approved, direct Finance to make necessary net zero cross-fund and/or cross-functional budget appropriation transfers. Manager. (All Commission Districts.)

On the call for public comment, Ms. Bonney Brown noted that she was on the Board of Directors (BOD) for Options Veterinary Care (Options). She thanked the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for considering funding spay and neuter clinics for the community. She mentioned the BOD was grateful and excited to be able to deliver services to Washoe County. She indicated spay and neuter clinics were needed in the community.

Ms. Kim Becker communicated she had observed and was a part of the building of the Nevada Humane Society (NHS). She understood a certain amount would be allocated to spay and neuter clinics. She apologized that the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) did not put in a bid. She felt the disbursement should be at least fifty-fifty between Options and the NHS. She indicated the BCC had the only oversight other than the NHS board. She believed there did not seem to be much accounting for the NHS's finances. She did not understand how, two years ago, the NHS misplaced three-quarters of a million dollars. She speculated the NHS was holding onto quite a few funds while Options Veterinary Clinic, the SPCA, and the Washoe County Animal Services (WCAS) were desperate for funds. She would be pleased if the BCC took another look at the funding allocation.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote, with Commissioner Garcia absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 13 be approved, authorized, and directed.

24-0812 **AGENDA ITEM 14** Recommendation to retroactively approve the acceptance of grant funds awarded by the Institute for Responsive Government, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code section 501 (c) (3) in the amount of [\$350,000.00; no county match; including up to \$2,000 for participant incentives - including gift cards], from June 1, 2024, to May 31, 2025 to the Registrar of Voters' Office; retroactively authorize the Deputy Registrar of Voters to sign award documents and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments to reflect the receipt and use of the grant funds. Voters. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote, with Commissioner Garcia absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 14 be approved, authorized, and directed.

24-0813 **AGENDA ITEM 8** Recommendation to receive an update and provide direction to staff by confirming or modifying the order of initial actions to implement the Envision Washoe 2040 Master Plan. Staff requests Board input on the order of prioritization for the following subjects: (1) County-wide housing affordability and supply initiatives; (2) resources to implement Envision Washoe 2040; (3) public noticing; (4) Tahoe Area Plan; (5) Warm Springs ground water rights dedications; (6) indicators for measuring Envision Washoe 2040 Master Plan achievement; and, (7) permitting requirements for equine businesses. Community Services. (All Commission Districts.)

Division Director of Planning and Building Ms. Kelly Mullin conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk, and reviewed slides with the following titles: *Washoe County Strategic Plan; Background; Implementation Actions; Updated Initial Priority Order; Recommendation*. She noted about a year ago the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) adopted the Envision Washoe 2040 Master Plan and identified the priority order for the set of actions for implementation. She asked the BCC to confirm or modify the updated proposed priority order. She mentioned the Strategic Plan and Master Plan were important to the work her team did. She indicated long-range planning was resource-intensive and time-consuming. She felt it was important that those efforts stemmed from the direction of the BCC. She explained the BCC set the policy and direction of the two plans which drove the work her team did. For example, one of the underlying goals of a Strategic Plan primary objective related to economic impacts was meeting the needs of a growing community. She discussed the initiatives that were tied to that and noted CSD was in the process of working on those. She believed there were complicating factors, such as the Tahoe Regional Plan, Truckee Meadows Regional Plan, and the upcoming legislative session that would often mandate additional work.

Ms. Mullin indicated that Commissioner Andriola requested the team look at standards for equine businesses. She noted it was the BCC's job to indicate where equine standards fell in the order of priorities. She reviewed the slide titled *Updated Initial Priority Order* and said it showed the proposed recommended order for implementation. She felt there had been significant progress on the BCC's top priority of County-wide affordable housing initiatives. She referred to the adoption in July regarding code changes that made it easier, faster, and cheaper for property owners to establish accessory dwelling units (ADUs). In July, the BCC adopted changes that updated standards for multifamily housing. She mentioned the BCC would be asked to adopt changes that supported housing for caregivers of the infirm. She addressed the following week the BCC would be asked to hold a second reading for changes regarding missing middle housing types. She explained upcoming work would focus on changes that spurred the creation of deed-restricted affordable housing.

Ms. Mullin said that positions to support the Master Plan implementation were requested but not approved during the last budget cycle. She noted that they would be making a net zero request during the fiscal year (FY) 2026 cycle. She mentioned that after the BCC set the initial priorities, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agencies (TRPA) made changes to their code relating to housing incentives. She commented that all the jurisdictions around Lake Tahoe were mandated to incorporate those changes into their codes. As a result, she recommended the update for the Tahoe Area Plan be moved up one slot in the priority order. She noted updates to the community would begin soon. Regarding public engagement, she reported that in 2022, neighborhood meetings were introduced with the intent of engaging citizens earlier in the planning process. She felt it allowed more opportunity for the community's input and concerns to be addressed. She expressed the initiative was aimed at doing an assessment to potentially make changes to the processes. She believed the goal was to have an efficient and effective engagement process.

Ms. Mullin reported Commissioner Andriola dedicated a good amount of district funds to assist in getting the equine business process started. That included hiring a consultant to look at what other jurisdictions were doing and soliciting input from the community with a survey and workshops. She mentioned that since the remaining work would be completed by staff, she wanted the BCC to identify where in the priority order equine business should fall. She recommended the work start immediately following the assessment on public engagement. Staff recommended Items 6 and 7 on the slide titled *Updated Initial Priority Order* stay in their slots. She explained that the Warm Springs groundwater rights dedications currently required in the code were less than what was needed, and it was a change expected to be brought forward later in the process. She informed the BCC the dashboard indicators for measuring plan achievements were for the public to track progress during the implementation of the Master Plan.

Commissioner Andriola thanked Ms. Mullin for the presentation and asked how long it would take for the team to get to equine businesses in the newly recommended priority list. She understood it was an unfair question.

Ms. Mullin felt there were a lot of different variables that could impact the answer. She could not guarantee when it would occur, but they were continuing to work on the affordable housing initiatives. She noted there were a couple of other packages to get through the process. She speculated the Tahoe Area Plan was expected to run for nine to twelve months because of the added complexity of location and TRPA's hearing processes. She expected the public noticing practices would take a few months, but she thought that would depend on what happened during the upcoming budget process when resources were discussed. She understood that was not an answer, but it was what she could give at the moment.

Commissioner Andriola believed it was a fair answer and did not want Ms. Mullin to feel put on the spot. She thought that there could be factors that could impact the item during the upcoming legislative session. She noted the County had a government liaison that would help it address those factors if something were to come up.

Ms. Mullin confirmed that during the legislative session, there were a lot of people involved in the process of assessing bills and receiving comments. She said there could be things that would potentially impact the code changes related to equine businesses.

Commissioner Andriola did not wish to diminish the importance of other factors. She recognized Ms. Mullin and her team for their hard work and dedication. She appreciated the equine community's patience and noted that sometimes things seemed like they could be adjusted quickly, but there was a process. She thought staff spent much time determining where they felt the equine businesses issue could be implemented.

Chair Hill noted the budget would be discussed in the next few months but asked Ms. Mullin if the County had ever contracted a consultant to help with the amendments or if it was a practice to do the process internally. She knew there was not a desire to hire new staff even though she would love to give Ms. Mullin more planners. She understood the budget constraints. She wondered if Ms. Mullin requested consultants to assist since it appeared the equine businesses matter would not take place for another year.

Ms. Mullin mentioned there was some groundwork done that was made possible because of district funds used to hire a consultant. She felt it was very important groundwork that was done. She reported an enormous part of the Master Plan creation and outreach was a partnership with a consultant.

Chair Hill commented the BCC could investigate consultants as potential additional resources for the Community Services Department (CSD).

Commissioner Clark speculated it would take about a year before equine businesses were addressed. He asked Ms. Mullin if the matter was impacting anyone now or if anyone was having financial hardships because they could not get their business license. He inquired if CSD was aggressively enforcing the business licenses.

Ms. Mullin noted that Code Enforcement tried to work with businesses that received compliance notices and were as flexible as possible if the businesses were making progress. She explained CSD's goal was not to be punitive but to bring people into compliance. She had witnessed some businesses that went through the process and were permitted. She indicated there were some businesses that reached out with concerns about the technical requirements. She believed CSD had people at different stages of the process, but the goal was to help them.

Commissioner Clark asked Ms. Mullin if anyone was currently being fined or sanctioned. He understood CSD was trying to work with businesses but inquired if any flagrant violations prevented people from conducting business.

Ms. Mullin apologized and noted she would need to follow up with that information.

Vice Chair Herman reported she had been in the equine business for many years. She could not figure out when the current rules came about. She wondered where all the rules came from and felt they were ridiculous. She felt rural and in-town were combined and did not know how CSD could do that because rural was different. She explained there may never be a profit in the horse business. She felt it could be lucrative, but most of the time, the love of horses brought individuals into the business.

Ms. Mullin stated that any rules enforced in the development code would have had to go through the Planning Commission and the BCC for adoption. To her knowledge, there had not been significant changes in the codes within the last several years. She mentioned most commercial and riding stables would have required a special use permit (SUP), which went through the Board of Adjustment. She believed complaints could be related to requirements coming from some partner agencies. She communicated that the County worked with the Northern Nevada Public Health District (NNPH), Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), and State water, who have their own requirements. She indicated CSD had heard public input about those other requirements and that CSD could only control what was within the County codes. She said conversations with partner agencies would occur during the process.

Vice Chair Herman requested Ms. Mullin moderate some of the harsh requirements within the next year. She opined the County had administrative rules, and she would like to see where those came from. She thought CSD had come up with ways of combining things that were detrimental to the equine businesses.

Commissioner Andriola thanked Ms. Mullin for trying to share the complexity of the process. She felt the designation of making the businesses commercial triggered everything. She believed it was not only Washoe County's purview to make those changes. She reported that at the Legislature, common terms were *unintended consequences* and *unfunded mandates*, which she believed resulted from years of a combination of things happening without intentional infractions against equine businesses. She noted the simplicity lay in looking at lifting the possibility of having businesses not trigger a commercial designation. She said unintended consequences were impacting businesses. She disclosed a common phrase in the equine industry: *if you want to find someone with zero discretionary income, find out who owns a horse*. She did not think it was intended to be a penalty but was a combination of State, local, and partner agencies who had put rules into place. She hoped it would not take a year but understood the Legislature might help with the discussion. She hoped that conversation helped Vice Chair Herman understand the complexity.

Commissioner Clark thought there were a couple of people on the dais who had owned horses most of their lives and understood how it worked. He agreed with Commissioner Andriola that labeling something a business changed the complexion. He felt when non horse people told horse people how to manage their operations, problems occurred. He knew how to handle livestock, and most people who did that had a certain amount of knowledge on the matter. He believed those people should be involved in

making regulations. He felt it did not make sense to have non-subject matter experts involved. He speculated it was not the fault of the person making the rules because they were unaware.

On the call for public comment, Ms. Katherine Yriarte mentioned she and her husband ran Team Yriarte Horsemanship. She noted it was a licensed boarding and training business that had been in operation since 2016. She indicated they had been navigating Washoe County's licensing processes since August 2023. She thanked the BCC and the staff for addressing the issue with the current codes regarding equine businesses. She expressed appreciation to Commissioner Andriola for allocating funds to address the issues and for including Washoe County horse owners in the process. She voiced full support for the staff's recommendation for reprioritizing permitting requirements. She was eager to continue the conversation and ensure small businesses could thrive. She wanted to continue the rich tradition of Nevada's equestrian heritage. She felt addressing the codes to make them more feasible for small equine businesses would ensure compliance. She learned a lot about how the County interacts with other departments and the requirements. She regularly corresponded with the NDEP and reported they pushed back and stated it was the County that was causing her business issues regarding bathrooms. She said a permanently built restroom facility with a commercial septic system on their residential property was the largest issue the business was having. She was grateful to Ms. Mullin for her communication. She reported that the NDEP would classify them as a home-based business and permit the existing facilities based on the size of the business. She opined the discrepancy was that they were a home-based business, but due to code, they could not be licensed as such because they were designated commercial. She mentioned they had minimal traffic, and neighbors supported their business. She asked that consideration be given to the possibility of waivers for smaller facilities in business for over a year to be allocated as home-based until code changes were addressed.

On motion by Commissioner Andriola, seconded by Commissioner Clark, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote, with Commissioner Garcia absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 8 be directed.

24-0814 **AGENDA ITEM** 15 Public Hearing: Subject to a finding of conformance with the Truckee Meadows Regional Plan by the regional planning authorities, recommendation to approve a resolution initiating an amendment to the 2019 Truckee Meadows Regional Plan Map 3 - Regional Utility Corridors & Sites to include a 200 MW solar energy center (containing a ±1,571 contiguous acre solar field, 200 MW solar energy storage system, and new substation on APNs 079-150-21; 079-150-20; 079-150-19; 079-150-17; 079-180-14; 079-150-45; 079-180-50; 079-150-08; 079-150-47; 079-150-07; 079-150-06; 079-150-04; 079-150-02; 079-150-01; 084-040-07) and a 1-mile-long 345 kV transmission line traversing west across APN 079-150-58, connecting the new substation on APN 079-150-19 to the Olinghouse Substation on APN 079-150-59 (WSUP23-0036 Dodge Flat Solar II). Community Services. (Commission District 4.)

Chair Hill opened the public hearing.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Andriola, seconded by Vice Chair Herman, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote, with Commissioner Garcia absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 15 be approved.

24-0815 **AGENDA ITEM 16** Public Hearing: Second reading and possible adoption of an ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 110 (Development Code), Article 310 Temporary Uses and Structures, to modify the administrative permit application requirements to occupy a travel trailer or recreational vehicle when necessary to temporarily care for the infirm, specifically by allowing nurse practitioners and physician's assistants, in addition to physicians, to sign the required affidavit identifying both the initial and subsequent annual need for on-premise care; and all matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto. Community Services. (All Commission Districts.)

Chair Hill opened the public hearing.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Andriola, seconded by Vice Chair Herman, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote, with Commissioner Garcia absent, it was ordered that Ordinance No. 1733, Bill No. 1923, be adopted, approved, and published in accordance with NRS 244.100.

24-0816 **AGENDA ITEM 17** Public Comment.

Mr. Roger Edwards noted it had been 17 years since the water recharge system had been shut down, and he was still getting a bill. He wished something could be done. He asked if there was a need for three sheriff's deputies plus the regular security to attend the meeting. He inquired if the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) was threatened by him. He wanted the BCC to stop praising the Division Director of Engineering and Capital Projects, Dwayne Smith, because Mr. Smith was the individual in charge of the water recharge program. He noted that for years, Mr. Smith oversaw residents paying a monthly bill for services they were not getting. He felt it was Mr. Smith's fault that 600 homeowners in Golden Valley had to pay \$22 a month for a water recharge. He speculated Mr. Smith knew the water recharge was not flowing. He believed Mr. Smith was responsible for the residents having over a quarter of a million dollars in the fund because they paid for something they were not getting. He said his attorney would file legal action when the County takes money out of his property taxes. He mentioned that Commissioner Clark was involved with Incline Village and speculated he must know what went on when charging County residents for something they did not get. He explained the

groundwater was at five feet and so high it needed to be pumped out. He noted the water was recharging naturally.

24-0817 AGENDA ITEM 18 Announcements/Reports.

Vice Chair Herman requested information about voting on the new Registrar of Voters (ROV).

Commissioner Andriola understood the prioritization of projects and the dedication of staff for housing initiatives and ordinances but asked staff to look at clarifying the Dark Skies Ordinance. She wanted staff to strengthen the ordinance.

Commissioner Clark addressed Mr. Roger Edwards' comments over the last two years. He witnessed a new level of anger from Mr. Edwards during the meeting and questioned what it would take to stop sending Mr. Edwards a bill. He asked for the water recharge concern to be placed on the agenda for Mr. Edwards and other residents. He noted it was a great deal of money for services the neighborhood did not receive. He expressed Mr. Edwards was not asking for a refund but to be left alone. He indicated that every month for the last two years, Mr. Edwards had expressed his concerns. He felt the resources needed to inform the individuals of the bill was a waste. He asked if the BCC was so hindered that they could not fix the concern, as he believed it was an easy fix.

* * * * *

1:27 p.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

ALEXIS HILL, Chair
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

JANIS GALASSINI, County Clerk and
Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

*Minutes Prepared by:
Lizzie Tietjen, Deputy County Clerk
Heather Gage, Deputy County Clerk*

Pending Board Approval