



# STOREY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2020 10:00 A.M.

DISTRICT COURTROOM  
26 SOUTH B STREET, VIRGINIA CITY, NEVADA

## MINUTES

MARSHALL MCBRIDE  
CHAIRMAN  
ATTORNEY

ANNE LANGER  
DISTRICT

JAY CARMONA  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

LANCE GILMAN  
COMMISSIONER  
TREASURER

VANESSA STEPHENS  
CLERK-

**ROLL CALL via zoom:** Chairman McBride, Vice-Chairman Carmona, Commissioner Gilman, County Manager Austin Osborne, Clerk & Treasurer Vanessa Stephens, Deputy District Attorney Keith Loomis, Labor Relations Jeanne Greene, Communications Director Dave Ballard, Sheriff Antinoro, Recorder Marney Hansen-Martinez, Planner Kathy Canfield, IT Director James Deane, Emergency Management Director Joe Curtis, Water/Sewer Project Manager Mike Nevin, Public Works Director Jason Wierzbicki, Human Resources Tobi Whitten, Comptroller Jennifer McCain, Senior Services Stacy York, Project Manager Mike Northan and Fire Chief Jeff Nevin

### **1. CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING AT 10:00 A.M.**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman McBride at 10:00 A.M.

### **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman McBride led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **3. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION:** Approval of Agenda for November 17, 2020.

Public Comment: None

**Motion:** I move to approve the Agenda for November 17, 2020, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by:** Vice Chairman Carmona, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Gilman, **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote, **(Summary:** Yes=3)

### **4. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- I. For possible action, approval of claims in the amount of \$1,426,706.92.
- II. For possible action, approval of business license first readings:
  - A. High Sierra Fire Protection, LLC** - Contractor / 4621 Goni Rd. ~ Carson City, NV
  - B. Motion & Flow Control Products, Inc.** - Out of County / 10822 W Toller Dr. Ste. 300 ~ Littleton, CO

- C. RSAnalysis , Inc.** - Out of County / 1420 Holcomb Ave., #202 ~ Reno, NV
- D. Sunrise Plumbing & Heating LLC** - Contractor / 5330 Grass Valley Rd. ~ Winnemucca, NV
- E. The Tow Truck Company** - Out of County / 925 Matley Ln. ~ Reno, NV
- F. Turner Construction Company** - Contractor / 2500 Venture Oaks Ste. 200 ~ Sacramento, CA
- G. W. W. Clyde & Co.** - Contractor / 869 N. 1500 W. ~ Orem, UT

Public Comment: None

**Motion:** I move to approve the Consent Agenda for November 17, 2020, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by:** Vice Chairman Carmona, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Gilman, **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote, **(Summary:** Yes=3)

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENT (No Action ) None**

## **7. DISCUSSION ONLY ( No Action - No Public Comment): Committee /Staff Reports**

### **Sheriff Antinoro :**

- Congratulations to the three newest deputies graduating from the Police Academy: Deputy Dotson, Deputy Hefner, and Deputy Smiley.

### **James Deane , IT Director:**

- AT&T has completed the new fiber pole for the Dispatch Center. The internet circuit will be connected within the next two weeks. All microwave connections have also been completed.

### **Jason Wierzbicki , Public Works Director:**

- An upcoming item on today's agenda addresses reinstatement of water shut-offs.
- Additional blocks are being added to the wall at the back of the Courthouse parking lot.
- Crews are around town getting ready for snowy weather.

### **Joe Curtis , Emergency Management Director:**

- The County now has 28 Covid cases, 24 recoveries, with 4 active.
- The Quad-County has 2,693, with Carson City reporting 1,443 who are mostly inmates in the State Prison system who are tagged for Carson City.
- Mr. Curtis reviewed the two types of testing. Statistics may be a little higher.
- Whether it's Storey County or somewhere else, the statistics are significantly flawed. Areas of Storey County have zip codes relating to other counties. There is no way to know if there are cases attached to those other counties.
- The State is showing only 46 cases tested in Storey County, this is false. Over 186 tests were done in Mark Twain alone on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Over 500 have been tested since testing started.
- No further information on vaccinations.
- Next testing sites: Wednesday, November 18, 2 -4PM at Virginia City Senior Center; December 2nd in Lockwood; December 16<sup>th</sup>, in the Highlands; and December 30<sup>th</sup> at the VC Senior Center. Flu shots are also available at the test sites. All dates subject to weather.
- The Governor put out a Directive regarding "stay at home" with minimum workplace requirements.
- County Manager Osborne has put into place those minimum workplace requirements and indications of the kind of cleaning to be seen in County offices. Everyone is working diligently on this. Think masks, social distancing, and sanitization in and around your area.
- The Governor will be coming back soon with new decisions if any part of State has problems.

### **Honey Tapley:**

- The Small Business Grant Program closed on November 13. 22 applicants were approved. There is funding left-over - there will be an action item on the next agenda to discuss whether to give out additional funds to those already approved.

### **Dave Ballard , Communications Director:**

- Update on the radio project: Radio replacement is nearly complete with 5 or 6 vehicles left.

- Dispatchers will be training on the new equipment tomorrow.
- Waiting for ATT to install new phone equipment.

**Jennifer McCain, Comptroller:**

- Update on the audit: A few minor pieces are being put together. The auditor should have something to review by the end of the week. The audit will be on the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting for approval.

**Mike Nevin, Water Projects Manager:**

- Hillside Water Tanks:
  - Tank 1 - under construction with the third ring installed yesterday. The fourth ring should be on by the end of the week, depending on weather/wind. Once the fourth ring is installed, work will begin on the interior columns. Depending on weather, the roof will be put on after that.
- Gold Hill Wastewater Treatment Plant:
  - Bid opening held November 4<sup>th</sup>. Three bids were received. Approval and award of bid will be on the December 1<sup>st</sup> agenda. The low bidder submitted a non-responsive bid - award is being recommended for the 2<sup>nd</sup> low bid. This brought a little challenge relating to funding. Reaching out to USDA Rural Development has come through allowing (the County) to utilize additional grant funding in the amount of \$115,000, coming from the Washington DC National office.

**Fire Chief Jeff Nevin :**

- Welcome to three new firefighters/paramedics to the Fire District. Thank you to Chairman McBride for being there.
- Expecting the refurbished ambulance to be delivered mid to December.

Vice Chairman asked about the recent fire in the Highlands. Was that a structure fire or did a residence burn? Did the house burn?

Chief Nevin: Yes, it was structure fire - total loss.

**County Manager Austin Osborne :**

- A Town Hall meeting (via zoom) will be held for Lockwood on November 18<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 PM. There will be presentations by County staff and Truckee River flood management representatives regarding grant funding and flooding abatement.
- On behalf of Community Relations: There was extra Covid funding left. The 22 businesses who requested Covid mitigation funding of \$5,000 will get \$10,000 to accept, and requests for \$10,000 will get \$20,000 to accept. Lara Mather indicated she has received calls, some crying, saying this is what was needed to stay in business. Thank you to Honey Tapley and Lara Mather for working on this - they have done a great job.

**8. BOARD COMMENT ( No Action - No Public Comment)**

**Commissioner Gilman:**

- Thank you to Sheriff Antinoro. They had a conversation regarding expansion of the Sheriff's Department. Not sure if that conversation had anything to do with it, but he is happy to see the "beefing up" of the Sheriff's Department.

**Chairman McBride :**

- Everyone in Storey County has been doing very well - wearing masks, social distancing, hand washing. It's incumbent on everyone to continue this practice. Looking at the percentages, Storey County is doing well - keep up the practice.

**9. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION:** Presentation from NDOT on State annual transportation infrastructure work program, and comments from the Storey County Commission and public to accept, modify, or reject the NDOT work program.

NDOT Director Kristina Swallow presented a slide show reviewing NDOT's two primary goals for the County:

- #1 - I-80 interchange evaluation at Lockwood lengthening westbound acceleration lane;
- #2 - State route 341, stormwater road management system.

A feasibility study has been completed for the I-80 corridor, part of which included Lockwood and the Lockwood interchange. Progress is being made and all necessary changes are being evaluated.

Regarding SR341, this is partially completed - NDOT continues to work with the County and the community on the "ins and outs" of that solution.

Other items listed as priorities are:

- Painted Rock bridge revision - the bridge is too low for some emergency vehicles;
- SR341 and 342 wild horse management;
- US50 and SR341 "No Trucks" signage;
- I-80 interchange at Waltham Way

Ms. Swallow explained how this year's work program was developed and reviewed the steps.

Chairman McBride said he understands that Items #1 and #2 are still the County's top two priorities. He asked Mr. Osborne if he had any recommendations, suggestions, or adjustments to the work program.

Mr. Osborne: Two things:

- Thank you to the Director Swallow and her team for accepting the 50+ letters from Lockwood residents. They have extreme safety concerns regarding the I-80 on-ramp, westbound.
- How much collaboration does the (NDOT) team have on the Sparks/Washoe County Lands Bill in (NDOT's) proposal for the LaPosada by-pass - interstate 80 from USA Parkway to approximately LaPosada in Spanish Springs.

Ms. Swallow said they are familiar with the Lands Bills and engaged at some level. (inaudible) but they are familiar with it and will engage as needed.

Chairman McBride: Do you, as Director or your department, have the ability to support a Lands Bill such as that - it would take a lot of pressure off of the I-80 corridor for all those people working in that part of Washoe County to have a direct shot to get into the Industrial Park.

Ms. Swallow: If requested, our support would be evaluated and look at what is being proposed. We have a (inaudible) shortfall on the budget as is. Getting additional traffic off I-80 would definitely be a benefit.

Commissioner Gilman: 75% of employees at Tesla (approximately 15,000 employees), live north of I-80. Increased traffic is going to be seen. He was hoping (NDOT) would find LaPosada Road is a very practical route. We have to get the Lands Bill together to make this happen. The Mayor of Sparks and the other Commissioners are 100% behind that project. If there is anything we can do in the County and the City of Sparks, we look forward to having interaction and talking about that construction project. Living in the Lockwood area - he attests that the Lockwood on-ramp is

exceptionally dangerous and not long enough to merge into traffic. If this can't be improved soon, it would be helpful to slow the speed down. The on-ramp is also used by Granite Construction, with their trucks trying to get on the interstate as well.

Vice Chairman Carmona: Thank you to the Director for this presentation. He echoes what Commissioner Gilman said. A possible idea would be signage urging drivers to move over to the fast lane before the Lockwood on-ramp. If, at least, something like that could be done it would definitely be appreciated by the folks in Lockwood.

Chairman McBride: In his 8 years, this was not always a top priority. But it has been mentioned to the (NDOT) team for the 8 years. The power-point presentation indicates NDOT is going to spend several million dollars in Storey County over the next couple of years - a lot on I-80. Hopefully it can be widened. The accident count on I-80 is unbelievable. The County's "guys" are rolling to accidents on a daily basis. It's a major concern. He has seen a lot of nice improvements on 341. Also, a shout out to the NDOT team at the yard in Virginia City - they work seamlessly with the County road maintenance for snow removal and anything that needs to be repaired. They do a terrific job - it is appreciated.

Public Comment:

**Kris Thompson, TRIC Project Manager:** Thank you Ms. Swallow for all the efforts you and the team have put into USA Parkway - beautiful, efficient, and quick turn around work. This helps to build out the park - which helps Storey County and the State of Nevada create more jobs. We have been dealing with the Lockwood interchange issue for some time. At the industrial center, between 9AM and 5PM, there are about 25,000 jobs. 5,000 to 9,000 "big rigs" come in and out of the Park on any given day - with the majority going westbound. This big rig traffic goes right past the Lockwood interchange. I-80 is the natural logistics flow for traffic to the west coast. The elderly in Lockwood with older cars don't have the ability to merge quickly into heavy traffic and with all the big rigs coming through. It's also a big issue for the big rig drivers. Accidents shut down the interstate for hours. This has been a (County) priority for years. Anything NDOT can do lengthen that on-ramp, would not only improve resident's safety, but also for everyone on the interstate. Thank you - USA Parkway is a world-class arterial for the biggest industrial park in the world.

**Motion:** I, Jay Carmona, motion to approve the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) annual work plan for 2020 as presented, **Moved by:** Vice Chairman Carmona **Seconded by:** Commissioner Gilman, **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote, **(Summary:** Yes=3)

Motion revised:

**Motion:** I, Jay Carmona, motion to approve the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) annual work plan for 2020 and to reaffirm the top two requests brought forth by this Board, **Moved by:** Vice Chairman Carmona **Seconded by:** Commissioner Gilman, **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote, **(Summary:** Yes=3)

**10. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION :** Authorize the County Manager and staff to go to public bid for necessary road and shoulder repairs, including patch, slurry, and shoulder repairs, to Cartwright Road within Virginia City Highlands as part of the countywide roads Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), contingent on the board approving a Resolution to accept the apparent winning bid for the project at a later meeting date. This includes segments of road owned or managed by Storey County and owned by the Virginia City Highlands Property Owners' Association (VCHPOA).

County Manager Osborne thanked Mr. Loomis for assistance in putting this together. This Resolution will enable the County to go to bid and have a third-party contractor complete the entire length of

Cartwright between 341 and the fire station. There will still be discussions regarding ownership of the road. Public Works Director Jason Weizrbicki has estimated a cost of \$150,000.

Vice Chairman Carmona said he is happy to see this sorted out.

Public Comment: None

**Motion:** I, Jay Carmona, motion to authorize the County Manager and staff to go to public bid for necessary road and shoulder repairs, including patch, slurry, and shoulder repairs, to Cartwright Road within Virginia City Highlands as part of the countywide roads Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), contingent on the board approving a Resolution to accept the apparent winning bid for the project at a later meeting date. This includes segments of road owned or managed by Storey County and owned by the Virginia City Highlands Property Owners' Association (VCHPOA), **Action:** Approve, **Moved by:** Vice Chairman Carmona, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Gilman, **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote, **(Summary:** Yes=3)

**11. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION:** Letter of support to the Nevada State Public Works Division to seek federal grant funding for critical repairs and improvements to the Marlette Lake Water System ensuring the ongoing operation of the system.

Mr. Osborne: The State Public Works Division is seeking funding for repairs to the Marlette Lake Water System on the State side, west of Hwy 580. This item is to approve the letter of support provided by Chairman McBride.

Chair McBride: The water system is over 150 years old, built by the miners in the 1870's providing water for the mines, mills, and businesses in Virginia City. There will always be maintenance on a water system. The (current) Marlette system provides water for Gold Hill, Silver City, and Virginia City - with Carson City siphoning off a little. Getting Federal grant funding for improvements will help a lot. This is an amazing system and very expensive to maintain.

Public Comment: None

**Motion:** I, Jay Carmona, motion to approve letter of support to the Nevada State Public Works Division to seek federal grant funding for critical repairs and improvements to the Marlette Lake Water System ensuring the ongoing operation of the system, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by:** Vice Chairman Carmona, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Gilman, **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote, **(Summary:** Yes=3)

**12. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION:** Consideration and possible acceptance of quitclaim deed of dedication and notice of relocation of easement submitted by EP Minerals LLC to relocate a proposed easement crossing its property to Electric Avenue, which crosses its property at a different location.

Deputy District Attorney Loomis: In 1999, the builder recorded a parcel map depicting an access easement across property which was intended to align with U.S.A. Parkway. When the Parkway was built and dedicated to the County, the alignment was slightly different causing the easement to not work. When Electric Avenue was built it did not align with the access easement. This request is to realign that easement with Electric Avenue and to not have it cross property where it does not make any sense. This request is for the County to concur with the acceptance of the correction and dedication of the relocation of this easement.

Commissioner Gilman: This has been needed for a long time.

Chairman McBride: This is just a “housekeeping” measure and does not affect the County financially in any way.

Public Comment: None

**Motion:** I, Jay Carmona, move to approve acceptance of quitclaim deed of dedication and notice of relocation of easement submitted by EP Minerals LLC, and authorize the Chairman to sign, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by:** Vice Chairman Carmona, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Gilman, **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote, **(Summary:** Yes=3)

**13. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION :** Consideration and possible approval of first reading of Bill No. 126; Ordinance No. 20-315 providing for the substitution of the Storey County Board of County Commissioners as the ex officio board of trustees of the Tahoe Reno Industrial General Improvement District (TRI GID).

Commissioner Gilman recused himself from discussion and vote on this item.

Mr. Loomis: This Ordinance is authorized by NRS 318.0953, where the (County) Board, if interested, can become ex officio board of trustees of Tahoe Reno Industrial General Improvement District (TRI GID). The existing Board of Trustees passed a Resolution asking the County to take this action.

Shari Whalen, General Manager, TRI GID explained because there are very few residents in the TRI GID, it is difficult to find people to serve on the Board of Trustees. There are 5 seats, with 2 vacant and they cannot be filled. They have a vulnerability in that they do not have enough members to attend meetings. Covid has also had an impact. The (County) Board taking over as the ex-officio Board of Trustees will ensure the economic engine of the region, and being able to (inaudible).

Public Comment: None

Mr. Osborne explained this is not the County taking over or assuming the GID, the staff, or any other responsibility. It is just the oversight, ex-officio Board of Directors. The GID remains a complete, separate local government.

Chair McBride: When the GID was created 20 years ago, the County never anticipated being involved with the GID. But it looks like going forward this needs to be done and he is in support.

Mr. Loomis read the title: “An ordinance by which the Storey County Board of County Commissioners shall become the ex-officio Board of Trustees of the TRI General Improvement District pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 318 and providing other matters properly relating thereto”.

**Motion:** I, Jay Carmona, hereby move to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 20-315 and set the matter for a public hearing, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by:** Vice Chairman Carmona, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Gilman, **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote, **(Summary:** Yes=3)

**14. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION:** A possible adjustment to the 070-070-64010-000 Capital Project Fund in the amount of \$60,000 from the 001-600-57900-000 Contingency Account to purchase and install a single Point-to-Point Microwave Link, Switching Equipment, Racking, Power Supplies, Surge Protection and Inverter to extend the Motorola VHF Radio system to include the newly completed USA Parkway Tower Site.

James Deane, IT Director explained this is the last leg of the Motorola radio project. Initially the (USA Parkway Tower) site did not exist, therefore a cost for this point-to-point microwave link was not obtained. This link will provide significant coverage increase for all public safety departments. The site is 99% complete with just minor wiring being finished by NDOT.

Public Comment: None

**Motion:** I, Jay Carmona, motion to approve the adjustment to the 070-070-64010-000 Capital Project not to exceed \$60,000 to purchase and install a single Point-to-Point Microwave Link, Switching Equipment, Racking, Power Supplies, Surge Protection and Inverter to extend the Motorola VHF Radio system to include the newly completed USA Parkway Tower Site, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by:** Vice Chairman Carmona, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Gilman, **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote, **(Summary:** Yes=3)

## **15. RECESS TO CONVENE AS THE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD**

**16. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION:** For the Board of Fire Commissioners to provide direction to staff and determine the course of action to hire/promote a new fire chief.

Fire Chief Jeff Nevin: With his announced retirement, he, along with staff and the HR Director, are looking for direction from the Fire Board as to how they would like to proceed on hiring or promoting a new Fire Chief. His preference would be a staff member who he believes would be more than capable of handling the position. He suggests starting with an internal posting and go from there.

Chair McBride said he always likes to hire and promote from within the County, and does not want to go on nationwide searches for vacancies in County government. Those closest to home understand what is the most necessary, cost efficient, and policy - especially with the Sheriff and Fire Departments. He concurs with the Fire Chief in looking internally first.

Commissioner Gilman: Agrees with everything (Chair McBride) said - he prefers to promote from within to the extent there is qualified personnel. As suggested by (Fire Chief) we believe we do.

Vice Chair Carmona said he has no objections to looking from within first.

Public Comment: None

Chairman McBride asked Deputy District Attorney Loomis if it would be appropriate to direct staff to post and interview internally.

Mr. Loomis said he thinks that's appropriate.

**Motion:** I, Jay Carmona, make a motion that Human Resources perform all necessary steps to recruit first from within qualified candidates to fill the Fire Chief position, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by:** Vice Chairman Carmona, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Gilman, **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote, **(Summary:** Yes=3)

## **17. RECESS TO RECONVENE AS THE STOREY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**



**18. DISCUSSION/ FOR POSSIBLE ACTION:** Approval of the selection of Sierra Builders of Nevada in the design-build solicitation and authorize the County Manager to execute an agreement with Sierra Builders of Nevada for installation of a fire suppression system and related structural repairs at the V&T Freight Depot in Virginia City for the not-to-exceed amount of \$152,550.00.

Mike Northan, Projects Coordinator: This agreement is for installation of a fire suppression system and structural repairs at the Freight Depot. Two responses to the request for proposal were received. One from Sierra Builders of Nevada, the second from Mid-West Construction.

Mr. Northan reviewed the published requests for proposal and qualifications. Sierra Builders has an extensive track record with special projects under the direction of SHPO. They also had the lowest bid at \$152,550.00. Staff recommends acceptance of this proposal.

Chair McBride said he is glad to move forward with this - we can't get a fire suppression system in the freight depot soon enough. A great job has been done getting (the depot) cleaned up.

Commissioners Gilman and Carmona said they concur with this proposal.

Public Comment: None

Mr. Osborne: The improvements to this building are being paid for from the ¼ cent sales tax from V&T Railroad projects - those funds are specifically for this sort of thing.

**Motion:** I, Jay Carmona, move to approve the selection of Sierra Builders of Nevada design-build team and authorize the County Manager to execute an agreement with Sierra Builders of Nevada for installation of a fire suppression system and related structural repairs at the V&T Freight Depot in Virginia City for the not-to-exceed amount of \$152,550.00, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by:** Vice Chairman Carmona, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Gilman, **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote, **(Summary:** Yes=3)

**19. DISCUSSION/ FOR POSSIBLE ACTION:** Consideration and possible action on consideration of the business impact statement for the proposed diesel tax and ordinance.

Outside counsel, Robert Morris, explained this item is based on legislation passed in the last session authorizing certain smaller counties to impose an additional tax on diesel fuel, along with other provisions. Storey County is authorized to enact up to a 5 cent tax on diesel fuel. Before approval, a business impact statement is required to determine if this will cause a direct and significant impact economic burden on businesses, or directly affects the burden or expansion of the business. If any comments come in, they need to be reported to the Board.

Mr. Morris requests this matter be continued to the December 1<sup>st</sup> Board meeting with public comment and review of any comments that are received.

**Motion:** I, Jay Carmona, move to continue consideration of this impact statement to the December 1, 2020 Board meeting, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by:** Vice Chairman Carmona, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Gilman, **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote, **(Summary:** Yes=3)

**20. DISCUSSION/ FOR POSSIBLE ACTION:** Consideration and possible action on first reading of Bill No. 127, Ordinance No. 20-316 amending Storey County Code Chapter 3.76 Motor Fuel Tax-Road Repair by imposing a tax on special fuel that consists of diesel fuel sold in Storey County.

Mr. Morris: This is the actual ordinance imposing the 5 cent tax. The title: "An ordinance amending Storey County Code chapter 3.76 Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax Road Repair by imposing a tax on special fuel that consists of diesel fuel sold in Storey County, and providing for other properly related matters".

Vice Chairman Carmona: He has researched this matter and also went to the Legislature to see about giving the County the opportunity to oppose this tax. Mr. Carmona understands any dollars (the County) has to fix roads is welcome, but he believes this needs to be put to the voters and let them decide if this tax is appropriate.

Commissioner Gilman: We are becoming a major truck center - Walmart alone has approximately 1,000 trucks per day. TRI is a distribution hub in the County. If we don't look seriously at TRI, a lot of money will be left on the table versus how many people might be impacted under a diesel scenario. We need to take a serious look at collecting the diesel tax at the TRI stations.

Public Comment: None

Mr. Morris explained two ways to do this. The ordinance can be approved by at least two-thirds of the Board or the matter can be submitted to and approved by the voters.

Chair McBride said it is his intention to "push this forward" with a two-thirds vote of the Board. He testified at the last two Legislatures - this was passed at the last Legislature. Clark and Washoe counties have had this fuel tax for years. The 15 rural counties have been left out. With the Quad County coalition, we were instrumental in pushing this forward. Hundreds of "eighteen wheelers" go in and out of the industrial park every day - tearing up roads that then need to be repaired, not paying into the County treasury to make those repairs. The argument is that we are asking for what the two largest counties have been getting all along. If the eighteen wheelers in TRI are not paying a fair share, the residents of Storey County are paying that share for them. This is an issue of fairness. Filling up with gasoline, a fuel tax is paid to Storey County to help repair roads. Filling up with diesel fuel, tearing up the roads in the County, gets a free pass. It's an issue of fairness - everyone that drives on the Storey County roads, with motor fuel, needs to pay a fair share. As pointed out, a lot of money is left on the table if we don't go forward with this.

Chair McBride said he does agree with Vice Chair Carmona on some part - that residents should have a say. But they have by voting on their representatives. If every agenda issue was brought to the voters of the County, a lot would never get done. If this were a tax - it's an implementation - it would never get passed. As a government, we cannot lobby and give everyone reasons why they should vote on something like this - it's not allowed under statute. As a representative of the residents of the County, he is going to push forward with this.

**Motion:** I, Lance Gilman, move to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 20-316, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by:** Commissioner Gilman, **Seconded by:** Chairman McBride, **Vote:** Motion carried by vote, **(Summary:** Yes=2, Nay=1)

**21. DISCUSSION/ FOR POSSIBLE ACTION:** Approval of Resolution No.20-594 ratifying the COVID-19 business impact related decision of the Public Works Director to decline to use its authority to enforce payment and delinquent rates and charges through the shut-off of water and sewer utility services, and authorization of the County Manager and Public Works Director to jointly determine when to end the moratorium and shut-offs.

Mr. Loomis: In March of this year, the Governor's office requested water and sewer utilities to submit a statement to the Public Utilities Commission that payment of bills would not be enforced through shut-offs. Public Works did this March 15<sup>th</sup>. This item is a request to ratify that statement. As time has gone by, some utilities have stopped the moratorium on shut-offs. If the County Manager and Public Works Director agree, this Board is being asked to approve the collection of bills through water and sewer shut-offs.

Commissioner Gilman: With Covid continuing and duration unknown, at this point do we want to force utility payments at a time when so many people are out of work, so many financial challenges. He understands there would be two people making the decision. He is not really comfortable shutting off basic services during the winter and especially during the Covid challenge.

Chairman McBride: He has the same concerns. The Governor has lifted the moratorium on evictions for non-payment of rent. Decisions have to be made on how far to let something go. This resolution just gives....if you want to expand on it??

Vice Chairman Carmona: This is tough - we don't want to shut off basic services. It's how far do we let somebody go? There are heavy users - if some is \$5-6,000 behind, are we equipped to set them up on a payment plan? He is on the fence. We don't want to shut off water to those unemployed, not getting unemployment checks - the State has failed them.

Commissioner Gilman proposes moving this decision to January to allow some dust to settle with the Covid issue.

Chair McBride: There are a couple of things. This gives authorization jointly to the County Manager and the Public Works Director to make the decision. As a Board, we are not making the decision who will have their water turned off. The water and sewer systems are an enterprise account. If enough people do not pay their bills, there would not be adequate funds in those accounts for operation that needs to be done. In the long term, (the County) will not lose anything, as property can be liened and the debt will be re-captured when the property is sold. He is comfortable giving the authority to the Public Works Director and the County Manager to oversee this.

Vice Chair Carmona: He would support that.

Commissioner Gilman: He would agree with the understanding that it's not a "hard and fast" directive to start turning water off. If a reasonable need can be shown, he would like some sort of system to give them latitude.

Public Comment:

**Jennifer McCain, Comptroller:** To ease minds, (the County) is at 44% of the expected budget collection for the year and close to 50%. It would be important to know how many customers are behind and using the Covid pandemic to not pay their bills versus how many are actually on time with payment. There are a lot of unknowns for the Commissioners to make a decision - the County Manager and Public Works Director can look at the water account books to make a valid decision.

Mr. Osborne: He and Mr. Weirzbicki can get together with Ms. McCain to review the records.

**Motion:** I, Jay Carmona, move to approve, Resolution No.20-594 ratifying the COVID-19 business impact related decision of the Public Works Director to decline to use its authority to enforce payment and delinquent rates and charges through the shut-off of water and sewer utility services, and authorization of the County Manager and Public Works Director to jointly determine when to end the

moratorium and shut-offs, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by:** Commissioner Gilman, **Seconded by:** Chairman McBride, **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote, **(Summary:** Yes=3)

**22. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION :** Approval of business license second readings:

Mr. Osborne on behalf of Community Development recommends approval of all licenses A through G.

- A. Byers Industrial Services, LLC** - Contractor / 1100 Grant Ave. ~ Franklinville, NJ
- B. Encor Solar LLC** - Contractor / 3401 N. Thanksgiving Way #150 ~ Lehi, UT
- C. Geodis Logistics LLC** - Out of County / 7101 Executive Center Dr. Ste 333 ~ Brentwood, TN
- D. Raptors Live LLC** - General / 80 S. C St. ~ Virginia City, NV
- E. Sabic Innovative Plastics US LLC** - Out of County / 2500 City West Blvd. Ste. 100 ~ Houston, TX
- F. Southland Industries** - Contractor / 12131 Western Ave. ~ Garden Grove, CA
- G. Trivium Packaging USA Inc.** - General / 775 Waltham Way Ste 101 ~ McCarran, NV

Public Comment: None

**Motion:** I move to approve the second reading of Business Licenses A through G, **Moved by:** Vice Chairman Carmona, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Gilman, **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote, **(Summary:** Yes=3)

**23. PUBLIC COMMENT (No Action)**

**24. ADJOURNMENT OF ALL ACTIVE AND RECESSED BOARDS ON THE AGENDA**

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 11:54 AM  
Respectfully submitted,

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Vanessa Stephens Clerk-Treasurer