



Storey County Board of County Commissioners Agenda Action Report

Meeting date: 8/3/2021 10:00 AM -
BOCC Meeting

Estimate of Time Required: 5 minutes

Agenda Item Type: Discussion/Possible Action

- **Title:** Consideration and possible approval of the Minutes for June 15, 2021.
- **Recommended motion:** Approve or amend as necessary.
- **Prepared by:** Vanessa Stephens

Department:

Contact Number: 775-847-0969

- **Staff Summary:** None
- **Supporting Materials:** See attached
- **Fiscal Impact:**
- **Legal review required:** False
- **Reviewed by:**

____ Department Head

Department Name:

____ County Manager

Other Agency Review: _____

- **Board Action:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved with Modification
<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Continued



STOREY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

JUNE 15, 2021 10:00 A.M.

DISTRICT COURTROOM
26 SOUTH B STREET, VIRGINIA CITY, NEVADA

MEETING MINUTES

JAY CARMONA
CHAIRMAN

ANNE LANGER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CLAY MITCHELL
VICE-CHAIRMAN

LANCE GILMAN
COMMISSIONER

VANESSA STEPHENS
CLERK-TREASURER

Roll Call: Chairman Carmona, Vice-Chairman Mitchell, Commissioner Gilman, Clerk/Treasurer Vanessa Stephens, County Manager Austin Osborne, Comptroller Jennifer McCain, Deputy District Attorney Keith Loomis, Community Relations Director Lara Mather, Fire Chief Jeremy Loncar, Sheriff Antinoro, Public Works Director Jason Wierzbicki, Emergency Management Director Joe Curtis, Tourism Director Deny Dotson, IT Director James Deane, Planner Kathy Canfield, Senior Center Director Stacy York, Recorder Marney Hansen-Martinez, Community Chest Director Erik Schoen, Employee Relations Jeanne Greene, Communications Manager Becky Parsons, Assessor Jana Seddon

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

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Carmona led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: Approval of Agenda for June 15, 2021.

Public Comment: None

Motion: I, Commissioner Mitchell, move to approve today's Agenda as presented, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by:** Vice Chairman Mitchell, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Gilman, **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote, **(Summary:** Yes=3)

4. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: Consideration and possible approval of Minutes for April 20, 2021.

Public Comment: None

Motion: I, Commissioner Mitchell, move to approve the Minutes for the April 20, 2021 meeting, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by:** Vice Chairman Mitchell, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Gilman, **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote, **(Summary:** Yes=3)

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- I Consideration and possible approval of the deletion of the 2019-20 Delta Saloon Personal Property Tax Bill due to business unable to open or operate.
- II Consideration and possible approval of claims in the amount of \$2,251,296.26
- II Consideration and possible action, approval of business license first readings:
 - A. ARCO Construction Co. Inc. - Contractor / 900 N. El Camino Real, Ste. 305, San Mateo, CA
 - B. R.F. MacDonald - General / 99 Megabyte Dr., Sparks, NV
 - C. Rustic Rope N' Treasures - General / 263 N. C St., Virginia City, NV
 - D. Wild Red's - General / 263 N. C St., Virginia City, NV

Public Comment: None

Motion: I, Commissioner Mitchell, move to approve today's Consent Agenda, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by:** Vice Chairman Mitchell, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Gilman, **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote, **(Summary:** Yes=3)

6. PUBLIC COMMENT (No Action)

Eileen Gay, Painted Rock resident read a statement thanking the County for offering the Zoom option for meeting attendance and encourages the County to continue to offer virtual attendance options for those unable to attend in person. This is a great way to stay involved and to be aware of all the County is doing.

Chairman Carmona said we will continue to offer Zoom going forward.

7. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: Presentation and discussion with Walker & Associates about 2021 legislative session including bills and new laws affecting Storey County and Nevada.

Mary Walker explained they have the Western Nevada Legislation Coalition, which includes Carson, and Lyon, Douglas, and Storey counties. This gives them more "clout" and position in getting points across in the Legislature. They monitored 454 Bills this session. Amendments were provided to sponsors - most all were accepted. Legislators were willing to meet with them very quickly. County staff, Mr. Osborne, received every one of the Bills. The majority of Bills are administrative, operational - not policy. All of the help (from County officials - Mr. Osborne, Commissioner Mitchell & others) is appreciated. Ms. Walker reviewed several Bills and the outcome:

- AB116 - Court fines and fees - would have taken fines and fees away from courts, giving it to schools. Ms. Walker had an amendment drawn up and it was accepted.
- AB196 - Lactation rooms in Courthouses. If it's not feasible, it does not have to be done.
- AB249 - Construction hours. Working with the sponsor, amended to affect only HOA's.
- SCR11 - Allowed a private business to have its own county. There was a lot of opposition and the Bill was turned into a study having to be completed by December 31st.
- SB107 - Wrongful termination. Would have allowed someone to file years later. This was fixed and no longer affects the County.
- SB327 - Discriminatory practices. Would have dealt with promotion of Sheriff's officers and requirements to do certain things. This no longer affects the County.

- SB390 - Suicide Hotline Bill: Allows grants from opioid lawsuit funds. This allows money to go to drug addiction and mental health programs.

Steve Walker explained the coordination of government lobbyists who meet every week to go over the various Bills. This is very important to their process.

- AB86 - Wildfires: Cannot recover expense or go after a person who starts a wildfire unless it threatens human life. This has been removed - now you can try to get your money back.
- AB211- Subdivision Impact on Wildlife: Amended, tentative maps need to be submitted to the Dept. of Wildlife. The Wildlife Board may charge a \$250 fee per map review and time \$5 an acre.
- AB341 - Cannabis Consumption Lounge: Passed. Cannabis events Bill - did not pass. These Bills are trying to address the fact you cannot use cannabis except in private residence - there is no place to use the product.
- AB263 - Transient Lodging: Short term rentals. This was extended to counties with population over 700,000.

Mr. Walker said he thinks we will see a return of some of these Bills.

Mr. Walker reviewed the following Bills:

- SB94 - Public Roads through Private Lands: This Bill would have some impact in Storey County. Public roads through a private property - the property owner can have an unlocked gate.
- SB98 - Storey County joining Carson Water Subconservancy District: Congratulations!
- SB150 - Tiny Houses: Houses 400 square feet or less - amended stating in counties under 100,000, there has to be one zoning district where tiny houses are allowed, or a tiny house park with community sewer and water.
- AB410 - Construction Manager "at risk"
- AB6 - Protest on Water Rights
- AB333 - Storm Water Retention - applies to all counties. If stormwater retention is required, a water-right permit would be required.
- AB354 - Water banks: Did not pass.
- AB356 - Water conservation: This Bill was taken over by Southern Nevada Water Authority and changed to remove non-functional/commercial turf in Las Vegas. This will be seen soon in the West - commercial turf removed for water conservation.

Commissioner Gilman thanked the Walker's for their efforts and reports.

Vice Chairman Mitchell: Echoes the thanks. While (the County) was somewhat defensive in this session, staff did a fantastic job getting responses. The Walker's did an excellent job making sure we don't get what we don't want.

Chairman Carmona: Echoes the other Commissioners. Thank you for your hard work.

Mr. Osborne said he thinks (the Walkers') were humble in their presentations and what they provided to (the County) in this session. They got us into a lot of the Senators and many of the Assembly. It was very clear that (the Walkers') can go into any office and they respect you - as well as many Senators and Assembly members. Even when they are busy, they will hear you - because of you, hearing us. Thank you for what you did for us this year.

8. DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Update, discussion, and provide direction to county staff and lobbyists regarding SCR 11 (formerly BDR 1109 and 1148) interim legislative committee to study Innovation Zone draft legislation, and other properly related matters.

Commissioner Gilman, holding a pecuniary interest in property that could be identified as a conflict, recused from discussion or voting on this issue.

Lobbyist Mary Walker presented an update on SCR 11, Innovation Zone draft legislation. The Legislature is in process of appointing committee members, which should be this week. There is an interim finance committee meeting set next Tuesday. Once the membership is known, they can strategize more on how to approach this. This will be an opportunity to get questions and concerns out into the open. This has to be done by December 31st - with at least one meeting a month required.

Mr. Osborne: We are not sitting and waiting to see what happens. With the consultants, all data is being put together to ensure we are prepared for questions from the interim study - financial impacts, housing impacts, infrastructure, and other matters that may be tied into the study. This process has begun and will proceed through the entire interim session.

Public Comment:

Eileen Gay, Painted Rock resident: Continues to thank the County for following this issue and is looking forward to further updates.

Motion: I, Commissioner Mitchell, move to direct County staff lobbyists and professional services to consider appropriate research, analysis, and actions on SCR 11, the Innovation Zone interim study, which will best protect and represent the County to continue opposing separatist government concepts, and to promote economic and land development through existing framework and the 2016 Master Plan of Storey County, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by:** Vice Chairman Mitchell, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Gilman, **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote, (**Summary:** Yes=3)

9. DISCUSSION ONLY (No Action/No Public Comment): Committee/Staff Reports

Fire Chief Jeremy Loncar:

- The Fire Department was on its first wildland fire of the season - in Douglas County. One engine and an NVEnergy dozer were sent to participate. The community is reminded that it will be an active season - be fire safe.
- Some fuels work has been finished in cooperation with NVEnergy staff.

Public Works Director Jason Wierzbicki:

- Public Works is actively working on the drainage project in Mark Twain.
- On behalf of Mike Northan:
 - The IT project is "full steam ahead" and on schedule.
 - Propane tanks are being changed out today.

Communications Manager Becky Parsons:

- On track to have radios switched over on June 23rd.

Emergency Management Director Joe Curtis:

- The Covid winding-down process has begun. Putting away equipment, distributing excess supplies, and moving back to normal, emergency management related functions.
- Storey County has had a total of 112 cases as of June 9th.
- Carson City Health & Human Services are no longer reporting new cases to us as the number is so minimal.
- Between June 9 and today, there is one new case - total 113 cases.
- Storey County has weathered the pandemic quite well. With our connection to Carson City Health & Human Services, they really took care of (us) - they did not have an obligation to do so.
- Thank you to all businesses and residents for their participation and cooperation.
- The "contagious disease emergency plan" in 2019 - was just in time.
- Citizens and businesses made the County approach and actions easier for all of us.
- Lara Mather, Honey Tapley, Stacey York - left other County duties, transferring to Emergency Management. They made testing and vaccination "pods" work - in the worst of bad weather and summer heat.
- Storey County Jeep Posse members did not miss a beat providing personnel in set-up and take-down at "pods". Sheriff Cert personnel provided additional staffing at vaccination testing sites. Thanks to all for making Storey County look capable, effective, and professional in handling pandemic matters. In some cases, better than the "big guys".
- He hated wearing masks, like everyone - but cases of regular flu, even common colds, were barely reportable on a national basis.
- Good sanitation habits have been developed - hand washing, hand sanitizer use. Habits to continue in the future.
- It can happen again - another pandemic. Be prepared should it happen.

Community Relations Director Lara Mather:

- At this time, there will no longer be Covid testing in Storey County.
- Carson City Health & Human Services has a resource flyer with information on where to get tested. Information is provided on the Storey County website and social media. Home tests are also now available.
- Gethealthycarsoncity.org provides any information on the pandemic, vaccinations, and testing.
- Mark Twain Community Center up-coming events: July - rummage sale; August - Hawaiian movie/pizza night; September - family bingo night; October - craft fair with Mammo-Van and blood drive & flu shots; November - Thanksgiving food boxes; December - spaghetti feed with Santa and the Sheriff. More info: Marktwaincc.org
- UNR Storey County Extension events: 4-H Camps - 4-H Arts & Crafts for Kids; Babysitting classes; "STEM" - Science, technology, engineering, and math teaching; also, "healthy kids-healthy schools". The 4-H Club has the Comstock Hot-Shots food lovers cooking sessions; the 4-H Community Club. There are also adult programs. For additional information call, UNR Extension at 887-2252.

Commissioner Gilman: It's time to celebrate how wonderful this County is, and we're on the move following the pandemic. Thank you to your department for the hard work.

Deny Dotson, VCTC Director:

- A "Welcome back bar-b-que" was held last Friday. It was great to see everyone and to look forward. Over 500 meals were served - \$1,067 in donations was received which will go towards July 4th fireworks. This may be put in the budget for future years.
- Revenue projections coming to the close of the fiscal year - tourism tax is up about \$100,000 to budget. Lodging is at budget with the last two periods trending over 2019.
- Marketing campaign is in full swing. Including, "Everyone is a Local" - every 3rd Thursday, 7PM.
- VCTC has invested in a large number of digital boards which will be "hitting" the region starting July 1st.
- Events:
 - June 21st - Women with Wheels car show - co-sponsored with Hot August Nights.
 - 4th of July, with the first full parade in more than a year, the Comstock Cowboys concert, and fireworks.
 - Hot August Nights is sold out with 450 cars -this will be the first, full road closure in more than a year and a half.
- Pipers Opera House continues "to soar" with bookings.
- He is looking forward to more convention space at the freight depot and the Gold Hill depot. This will be a big opportunity to change the economic impact in Virginia City. Pipers "is packed".

Honey Tapley, Communication Relations:

- One effect of Covid, was the changes that had to be made by the School District. While researching things kids can do, she found an activity book - "Weed Busters" - about all the noxious weeds in Nevada. The weeds can cause a fire safety problem. The book describes what they look like, who to report them to, and so on. This is something the kids may want to do this summer. UNR has provided these books to Community Relations - they are available at the (Community Relations) office.

James Deane, IT Director:

- Engineering on the tower at the sewer treatment plant has been completed.
- The new IT facility is moving along quickly.
- Thank you to Mike Northan for the projects mounting microwave maps at the Divide facility and Public Works buildings. He was able to save money by selecting a vendor Mr. Deane was not aware of.

Erik Schoen, Community Chest Director:

- Summer program is in full swing with enrollment at capacity.
- The (Community Chest) is 30 this year. The week of July 12th will be their celebration week. On July 14th, the library will be dedicated to the memory of Lucy Bouldin - longtime Virginia City librarian. On July 16th, a traditional "birthday party-open house" will be held. At 3PM, a tree will be dedicated in honor of Shaun Griffin, the previous executive/founding director of Community Chest.

Stacey York, Senior Services Director:

- Received notification from Aging & Disability Services that they are again 100% funded to receive grants for their Homemaker/Transportation program - enabling those programs to continue.
- Lockwood and Virginia City Senior Centers are doing "bingo-cize" - an exercise program geared to seniors that involves bingo cards. This will be every Tuesday & Thursday.

County Manager Osborne:

- A Town Hall was held June 10th in Mark Twain. The next location will be in Lockwood,
- Thanks to Deny Dotson, and team, for the VCTC barbeque. It was great with a lot of people from all over the County attending.
- Every year spraying for noxious weeds is done in Six Mile Canyon and the Comstock. Work is being done to get this started in the Highlands. In Six Mile, "white-top" is coming back to levels before all the treatments. It has been difficult to find employees to do the sprays. It is unknown if (treatment) will be successful this year or not.

10. BOARD COMMENT (No Action - No Public Comment)

Vice Chairman Mitchell:

- Pleased with all the work going on in all different fronts. He has been involved in discussions regarding affordable housing.

Chairman Carmona:

- The barbeque was fantastic, with close to 500 meals served. Great to see people from all areas of the county. He would love to see this every year.
- Met with the Fire Department and NVEnergy in the Highlands - discussing power outage, red-flag related situations. He put out a report for people who did not attend.

11. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: Presentation and discussion by Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) General Manager Ed James about the Carson River Watershed study including watershed trends, users, resource allocation, and strategies in the watershed area.

Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) General Manager Ed James welcomed Storey County as a new member of CWSD as of July 1st. Mr. James presented an overview of the Carson River Water Marketing Study looking at potential water storage in the watershed and potential sustainability. A grant received from the Bureau of Reclamation gave the opportunity to look at water marketing and sustainability. Water trends, water usage, and ideas for marketing ideas and sustainability were looked at.

Mr. James reviewed water trends, including the background of the watershed and current impacts. Mr. James discussed climate and precipitation. Long term trends show less precipitation. He also reviewed the various users and their usage.

Mr. James also discussed water marketing/management strategies. This includes water banking and importation of water. A grant has been applied for with the Bureau of Reclamation for development of a water management plan for the entire watershed - a 40 year plan where we have all the resources, also look at work USGS has done on the middle and upper Carson river and take the information to develop a water plan - taking in to account climate changes. If the grant is received, it

will take about 3 to 4 years to complete. When complete, there will be a blueprint for the entire watershed moving forward.

Public Comment: None

Vice-Chairman Mitchell: If climate trends continue - you said basically all the rivers water is allocated - will this potentially invalidate younger water rights, create conflict?

Mr. James: If it trends really bad, it will be a huge impact on agriculture. Surface water usage would not be impacted - it may force more groundwater pumping which may pull water from the system. Timing would need to be looked at. The river will go dry this year but there may be ways to use surface waters to augment flows to supplement the river - to enhance or recharge communities. This is something to be looked at in the overall plan. Because there is no up-stream storage, "mother nature" is depended on. You need to be prepared. As communities develop and grow, you need to insure there is a sustainable water supply.

Vice Chairman Mitchell: As Storey County grows in the future, looking at domestic versus municipal, is there a preference for one over the other - one more efficient? Are domestic wells problematic because usage cannot actually be measured? Is there an assumption? What's the thought about future growth in Mark Twain?

Mr. James: Every situation is different. A domestic well is necessary because it is not near a water system. Entitled usage is two acre feet per domestic well - most do not come near that. The issue is with smaller lots it makes sense to have a water system. Some areas where water table is dropping due to domestic wells - eventually water will run out, a water system will need to be brought in. These situations need to be planned ahead.

Brenda Hunt, CWSD Watershed Program Manager for the Carson River, reviewed the Carson River Literacy Program educating and encouraging the community to act in ways that benefit water quality and health of the Carson River watershed. Ms. Hunt explained a survey of residents was conducted in 2015 looking at their knowledge of watershed health, concept, and participation in activities. When asked if they lived in a "watershed" - 62% didn't know or think they lived in a watershed. 87% did not know where their water drained. When advised that it was the Carson River, most of them cared deeply about protecting it. A watershed literacy program was developed to help people understand more about the watershed. Ms. Hunt reviewed the messages of the program. Stickers were passed out describing actions that can be taken to keep waters healthy.

Ms. Hunt presented a PSA featuring community members around the watershed reminding neighbors to take simple actions to avoid pollution. More PSA's will be forthcoming to be released over the next year - they will be called "watershed moments". Films can be seen on I Am Carson River.org

Public Comment: None

Chairman Carmona thanked Mr. James and Ms. Hunt for the presentation.

12. DISCUSSION ONLY: Presentation and discussion with UNR Extension about the Nevada Economic Analysis Project (NEAP) for economic development analyses.

Joe Lednicky, UNR Economist, reviewed the Nevada Economic Analysis Project (NEAP) program. Some of their partners are the Bureau of Land Management, the U. S. Forest Service, NACO, and USDA Rural Development, who provide funding as well. The program studies demographics, social, fiscal, economic data points to be used by communities in policy and planning analyses. They hope to find the best uses for lands that everyone can be happy with. Data can be used for land use planning, policy assessments, for grants, and economic impact assessments for new industries.

Mr. Lednicky reviewed the data sources they use - federal and state data, items respected and verifiable. They keep a historical frame-of-mind with data to keep a base line/trend to see where things are going. Right now, things are inflated or deflated because of Covid. All data points will be looked at and reset in the next six months to a year.

Mr. Lednicky described the six characteristics looked at in NEAP. An in-person session will be held in Storey County tomorrow with a small group of community leaders. An on-line survey to the community is also done. Data collected is used for the impact models - for bringing in a new industry and how it will affect the community. This can also be used for housing studies. The process they provide establishes things that are important to the community, as well as what is seen as missing. Things such as broadband access, high-speed internet, lack of childcare. In small communities, lack of hospitals and/or urgent care. From this process, information is shared with local business leaders, Commissioners, and others.

Public land agencies are major part supporters of the project. The focus was on three major items on public land in Nevada - agriculture, mining, and outdoor recreation. For each County, an assessment of the economic impact of what is done on the land - are people staying in hotels, camping in tents, and so forth. NEAP is looking at all kinds of things - working together with public land agencies, and others, to measure these things. A survey of registered hunters was just finished - a step-by-step expenditure survey. From the patterns, economic impact to communities is determined. They will be trying to do this in more areas.

Mr. Lednicky explained that from data and trends, specialized reports can be prepared. An example was a biking path on BLM land in Lincoln County where they determined what the economic impact could be if converted from a plain path to a mountain biking path. The opportunity is there to bring in thousand of visitors, mountain biking association events (which they are doing), increase hours of restaurants and shops (which they have done) and other things that support businesses and bring in new ones. They were also able to show the economic impact in Humbolt County areas due to lithium mining.

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Gilman: Thanked Mr. Lednicky. Over the years, much of the information has been beneficial in tracking new companies and answering questions from the community. He is glad to see this data being collected. Thank you to the University for taking on the challenge.

Chairman Carmona: Some of the mountain bike data could be useful. Thank you.

13. DISCUSSION ONLY: Mark Regan, Fire Mitigation Specialist/Fire Chief for Nevada Energy will explain the expansion of its Public Safety Outage Management (PSOM) program and changes that will be coming to Storey County. Presentation will include what is PSOM (Public safety outage management), what mitigation efforts NVEnergy is already doing/ implemented, public outreach, customer outreach in customer resource centers.

Mark Regan, NVEnergy Fire Mitigation Specialist/Fire Chief, reviewed SB329 and the National Disaster Protection Plan (NDPP) - the changes being sought and the effect on Storey County in Virginia City and the Highlands.

The NDPP was from the last Legislature requiring the utility companies to present a natural disaster protection plan (NDPP) to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) by June 1, 2020, with updates every year and the entire plan every three years. NDPP focuses not only on wildland fires, but also snow events, earthquakes, monsoon season, high wind events, etc. The Plan was approved August 2020 by the PUC and will continually be updated.

Since 2019, over 40,000 wooden poles have been inspected in the "tier 3" areas. Tier 3 is Lake Tahoe-Mount Charleston areas, Tier 2 is Virginia City Highlands area, Tier 1 is the valley areas. Over 30,000 trees were removed in the Lake Tahoe area. 30 additional weather stations have been installed throughout the State. Approval of an additional 35 is being sought. Ten additional fire cameras have been installed throughout the State, adding automatic intelligence that will identify between a dust-devil, a smoke, a fire start, and allow a quicker response. Another ten cameras are being added to the system. They are also hardening the system to make sure they can recover the system and provide reliable energy back faster. This has been tested in "tier 3" areas, and it works. Approval will be sought in the fall with the PUC to add this wire mesh to existing poles in the wildland, interface area.

Over 9,000 acres in the State have been treated since the program started. For years, trees were trimmed. They are now required to remove vegetation from around the base of the pole anywhere from 10 to 30 feet. Also, to create fuel breaks. This has been done in quite a few communities - including the Highlands and Six Mile Canyon. Fuel breaks are being created in some areas where they go out up to 1,000 feet. They are also using goats to clear brush under a grazing program.

Mr. Regan reviewed areas where fuel breaks are being created. Staff is increased on "red flag" days. The County's fuels crew has treated almost ten miles of fuel in Six Mile Canyon - the first phase. They will be going back to take out additional fuel.

During fire season, they switch to "fire season mode" meaning it's a "single shot". If something touches a line, it de-energizes the line.

Mr. Regan talked about cell service during emergencies. The first thing that goes away is on the cell service tower is data, then communications, then text. In a disaster, cell phones should be switched to text messages - which is the last thing to be turned off on the cell system. (NVEnergy) is increasing cell services which will be in the area by the end of this month and will be deployed to provide additional cell service and wi-fi connections in the area during a disaster. NVEnergy will be having full-scale exercises, with Emergency Management and the Fire District invited to participate. Mr. Regan discussed recent small fires in the area.

Public Comment:

Kris Thompson, TRI Project Manager: Thanked NVEnergy for all the support given to TRI. Under the new plan, what "tier" is Tahoe Reno Industrial Center in? Has there been an analysis about the redundancy of the transmission/distribution lines out there? What happens if a particular line goes down from a fire or an accident involving a pole - to make sure there are alternate routes for the power? What is the normal response time under this plan to TRI?

Mr. Regan: Crews respond out of Reno and from a remote location. Reliability - there are multiple feeds going to that area. If one area goes down, switching controls make sure there is redundant power. That area was built with redundant power, as was Virginia City. Some communities only have one circuit, those are being identified - updates for those areas will be submitted for approvals. (TRI) is a "non-tier" area - it is in the wildland interface area. As updated, it will become a Tier One area. Fuel mitigation treatment has already started around infrastructure creating a fuel break. This will not happen overnight - it takes permit approvals, approval from the Public Utilities Commission. It will take 9 to 12 years to get infrastructure vegetation under control statewide. There are high priorities which are being attacked first. In the TRI area there is infrastructure where they can do fuel breaks - they are already working with fire districts to do this.

Mr. Thompson: What is the response time to get a crew on site for a downed distribution line in TRI?

Mr. Regan: There is always a crew on-call. To give a time, it's based on conditions - response times could be extended during storms, fire conditions, or a disaster. During high winds, additional staff are brought on. On a normal day, it would be drive-time from the Reno area. After hours, they are on-call. If the system is over-whelmed, response time could be extended.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you for everything that has been done in building redundant lines. Redundancy is key in TRI. NVEnergy has been doing a great job out there.

Vice Chairman Mitchell: This is great information.

Mr. Regan discussed the use of generators by the public.

14. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: Consideration and possible approval of the acceptance of renewal proposal from Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool (POOL) and approval of payment from fiscal year 2021-2022 funds.

Kayla Woods, sales executive with A&H Insurance, reviewed a history of A&H Insurance Agency and discussed the advantages of the POOL.

Brad Pierce, A&H Chairman reviewed key elements in the proposal provided in the agenda packet. Including, the state of the national insurance market affected by wildfires and elements of the pandemic such as business interruption claims, and others. There are horrendous upheavals in claim settlements - the numbers are alarming. The cyber aspect is a new element in insurance. Price increases in the insurance industry are 25 to 40 percent in the cyber arena.

Mr. Pierce referenced some of the coverages within the POOL that have not changed. (The County) has an excellent complement of coverages - property, liability, cyber risk, and environmental. Mr. Pierce reviewed amounts of coverage. The County has earthquake and flood coverage. Coverage for the County has been maintained since 1987. The four elements give the County very broad coverage.

Mr. Pierce explained the frequency of claims has trended down over the last couple of years. Although 2015 and 2017 were years with high claims.

The annual premium being proposed by NPAIP is \$451,000, up 9.1% over last year. There was discussion with County officials regarding the number of claims and claim elements relating to the deductible.

Ms. Woods: They are always available to provide information on coverages - what they do, what they provide, how coverages respond in real life. To mitigate increases in premium, they look at increasing deductibles. Storey County currently has a \$5,000 deductible. Entities are starting to self-insure a bit more by raising deductibles.

Ms. Woods reviewed a spreadsheet of claims over the last four years and the predicted claims based on the last four years. The spreadsheet also details the current deductible, as well as higher deductibles, the premiums associated with each, and the premium savings if the deductible is increased. Ms. Woods explained the savings in premiums by going to a higher deductible and recommends a \$10,000 deductible this term. There is a lot more than insurance that goes into risk management - there are value added services offered by the POOL. Taking advantage of these "value added" services is very important in reducing claims.

Wayne Carlson, Executive Director NPAIP, explained some of the "value added" services, some of which are currently being used actively:

- Passive network assessment - resulted in suggestions to the IT staff on ways to "beef up" IT security - cyber risk is a huge problem.
- Know B4 - an email "phishing" training program.
- Detention facility assessments -initially done in January 2020, with follow-up done in 2021.

These programs are expensive but were funded as they do prevent losses.

There are new standards regarding law enforcement response to incidents. The POOL already had these in place for members. There will be minor "tweaks" based on the final language of the Legislature. Monthly webinars on various topics have been released for law enforcement.

- They are working on a program for human resource services which the County is already taking advantage of.
- Working with Sheriff and Chiefs to discuss major law enforcement issues.
- Swimming pool assessments are included - the next one for the County is in July.
- Safety consultants will work with the (County's) safety committee as needed.
- Risk management grants are also included. Funding for risk management is available.
- Loss control excellence program has been re-vamped, where an award is given if all the best practices are achieved.
- Webinars are being done on cyber-security. This will be a series for members.

- The County is an active participant in "Know B-4". E-Learning for all programs is also provided.
- The County is taking advantage of a lot of these programs.

Mr. Carlson referred to the proposal for a "laundry list" of other things included in the scope of the County's program.

Public Comment: None

Deputy District Attorney, Keith Loomis: When reviewing contracts, he sends a lot of them to Mr. Carlson asking for comments and concerns. Mr. Carlson has always responded very quickly and effectively.

Chairman Carmona: He does not see any reason to go any higher than the \$5,000 deductible

County Manager Osborne: After talking with the Comptroller, and others - the way the world is going right now, it is being recommended to stay with the \$5,000 deductible. With the caveat, that the next year is spent re-visiting this, looking at the data, seeing where we are. Cars are still being "off-loaded", still trying to get rid of other equipment, and other things. Some minor parts on cars can cost \$1,500 or more; there are some building things being dealt with that could cause some claims that might cause the \$5,000 deductible to be advantageous. This will be looked at closely quarterly to start making recommendations for next years renewal.

Chairman Carmona: Sounds logical.

Vice-Chair Mitchell: Based on conversations, it is felt projected savings from a higher deductible are not warranted based on the potential burden that comes along with it.

Mr. Osborne: We can ask others - the Comptroller is here. At this time, it is felt that it's best to keep the deductible - we could exceed the \$24,000 difference.

Vice-Chair Mitchell: To understand concerns, incidents under \$5,000 - are those actual claims that were filed? Or things we handled on our own?

Ms. Woods: Claims that were filed but no payment received - they were under the deductible.

Mr. Osborne: There are a lot of little things that accumulate over the year.

Vice Chair Mitchell: If no payment is paid out - does that reflect on the rating? Does a claim filed reflect negatively (on the County) as a risk factor?

Mr. Carlson: Maybe not. There is a deductible credit for the assumption of risk taken. There's a higher differential if a higher risk is taken. Then there is a credit designed to offset any out-of-pocket expenses.

Vice Chair Mitchell said he does not have strong feelings one way or the other.

Commissioner Gilman said he is inclined to support the recommendation of staff, due to the significant amount of unknowns. Stay with the \$5,000 deductible and take the next year to do a thorough review, research, and consideration.

Vice Chairman Mitchell: A concern, looking forward to future years, keeping a \$5,000 deductible and having several claims in the \$5000-\$10,000 range, could potentially have an adverse effect on pricing going into future years. Not a reason to not do it - but something to consider.

Mr. Osborne: This is a good point. Next year looking at renewal, maybe look at going out to market, what might the difference be in our ability to be competitive.

Ms. Woods: We will certainly go out to market which means shopping your insurance, this would be outside the POOL. Other entities' coverage was shopped this year - property alone was double the cost without earthquake, flood, or cyber - all additional coverages offered by the POOL. With a litigious society - claims are higher than they have ever been. Across the board, market increases are seen. A 40% increase was seen by an entity outside of the POOL. 9% is a lot - affecting budgets and the County - it is not as bad as it could be. A higher deductible can decrease the amount of money being paid out by the insurance company which can result in a decrease in premium year over year. She is going to "dig into" the (County's) account this year to make sure we can do what needs to be done to reduce those claims as much as we can, and to take advantage of all the free services offered by the POOL.

Vice Chairman Mitchell: He does not have any delusion premiums would go down, but maybe we can slow the increase.

Mr. Pierce: Right now the marketplace does not have a product out there that could assemble the coverage provided under this program. That doesn't mean the efforts would not be made. You just don't find the limits and the aspects of deductible on things like quake, flood, etc. The marketplace is very hard. Realize that (the County) is a member of something assembled over years that is a tremendous product. Mitigating and holding the premiums in place is very important but the marketplace is in a state of upheaval. If there was ever the desire to leave this program, a notice is required within 120 days of the anniversary date. They will work at the County's direction. The loss follow-up will be provided on a quarterly basis.

Mr. Carlson: The POOL is owned by the members (the County is an owner), the Board governs the design of the program, coverage, limits, how it works. Mr. Carlson explained the details of what they do, how the County's interest works, and how they go to market. They received two competitive quotes, equal to or less than, the other two competitive markets. It is a complex process, a lot of staff work and work with agents. The goal is to get the best program that the POOL is satisfied with. All services are through written grants to the POOL. They try to keep the profit margin out and keep it as a non-profit.

Vice Chairman Mitchell: His questions are not that he's looking at some sort of re- negotiation, it's just looking at internal strategy on how to handle premiums.

Commissioner Gilman: He knows the underwriters base rates on the number of claims and amounts we are paying. In his opinion, much of that is subject to management of the county and to the mitigation that's internal. He believes the management, the departments, the County itself - have done a great job in organization, growth, and mitigation of issues that come up. He recommends staying with the \$5,000 deductible, and to consider bringing in an outside insurance expert that can review the County's status as a County, where we stand, how this looks - a third party opinion. A thorough analysis - something he does not have a firm grasp on. That is recommendation. He is thoroughly confident in County management and believes (the County) has the ability to mitigate a lot of its exposures.

Motion: I, Commissioner Mitchell, hereby move to accept the renewal proposal from the Nevada Agency Insurance Pool and approval for payment from FY 2021-22 funds with a deductible amount of \$5,000, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by:** Vice Chairman Mitchell, **Seconded by,** Commissioner Gilman, **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote, **(Summary:** Yes=3)

Chairman Carmona called for a 10 minute recess.
Meeting reconvened at 1:31 P.M.

15. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: Consideration and possible approval to authorize the County Manager to sign an extension to an existing contract between Storey County and Silver State Government Relations in the amount of \$4,000 per month for lobbying and government affairs services during the 2021 Nevada interim study session.

County Manager Osborne explained Will Adler, Silver State Government Relations, provided lobbying services to the County related to Innovation Zones legislation. This request is to continue his contract until January 5, 2022 - the duration of the interim study period.

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Gilman, in an abundance of caution, recused himself from discussion and vote on this item.

Motion: I, Commissioner Mitchell, move to authorize County Manager to sign the extension to the existing contract between Storey County and Silver State Government Relations in the amount of \$4,000 per month for lobbying and government affairs services during the 2021 Nevada interim study session, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by:** Vice Chairman Mitchell, **Seconded by:** Chairman Carmona, **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote, **(Summary:** Yes=2)

16. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: Consideration and possible approval regarding Resolution #21-624 granting the Comstock Cemetery Foundation, Inc., a non-profit entity, a sum not to exceed \$25,000.00 for the purpose of preserving the historic cemeteries of the Comstock Historic District.

Honey Tapley, Community Relations: As with other non-profits, the Comstock Cemetery Foundation has requested support in the amount of \$25,000. This item is the Resolution for consideration.

Public Comment: None

Mr. Osborne: Like the other non-profits, the Cemetery will use this money for whatever purpose they find appropriate - staffing, equipment, materials for restoration. The amount and purpose is consistent with prior years and the other non-profits.

Motion: I, Commissioner Mitchell, move to approve Resolution 21-624 granting the Comstock Cemetery Foundation, Inc., a non-profit entity, a sum not to exceed \$25,000.00 for the purpose of preserving the historic cemeteries of the Comstock Historic District, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by:** Vice Chairman Mitchell, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Gilman, **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote, **(Summary:** Yes=3).

Vice Chairman Mitchell asked if it would be appropriate to consider all of these (augmentation) items in batches as one agenda item - taking comment and discussion for all County-related items, then all Fire-related items, and a separate item for the Water-related items. As opposed to doing each individually - they basically have the same purpose. Would this be at the pleasure of the Chair?

Mr. Loomis: This would be at the pleasure of the chair and he thinks this could be done if the individual Resolutions are referenced.

Chairman Carmona read the titles of Resolutions 17 through 21, as follows:

17. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: Consideration and possible approval of Resolution #21-617 to Augment the Storey County Justice Court Fund, pursuant to NRS 354.598005, in the amount of \$20,000.

18. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: Consideration and possible approval Resolution #21-618 to Augment the Storey County the Storey County Grant Fund, pursuant to NRS 354.598005, in the amount of \$55,000.

19. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: Consideration and possible approval Resolution #21-619 to Augment the Storey County Drug Court Fund, pursuant to NRS 354.598005, in the amount of \$220,000.

20. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: Consideration and possible approval Resolution #21-620 to Augment the Storey County Emergency Mitigation Fund, pursuant to NRS 354.598005, in the amount of \$750,000.

21. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: Consideration and possible approval of Transfers within the 2020-2021 Storey County Budget in the amount of \$214,467 General Fund, \$3,000 Road Fund, \$12,000 VCTC; all with a net adjustment of \$0.00 in total expenses, pursuant to NRS 354.598005.

Comptroller Jennifer McCain provided an overview of each of the resolutions #21-617, #21-618, #21-619, #21-620, and the transfers within the 2020-2021 General Fund, Road Fund, and VCTC.

Public Comment: None

Motion: I, Commissioner Mitchell, pursuant to NRS 2354.598005, move to approve the following: Resolution #21-617 to Augment the Storey County Justice Court Fund, pursuant to NRS 354.598005, in the amount of \$20,000; Resolution #21-618 to Augment the Storey County the Storey County Grant Fund, pursuant to NRS 354.598005, in the amount of \$55,000; Resolution #21-619 to Augment the Storey County Drug Court Fund, pursuant to NRS 354.598005, in the amount of \$220.00; Resolution #21-620 to Augment the Storey County Emergency Mitigation Fund, pursuant to NRS 354.598005, in the amount of \$750,000; Transfers within the 2020-2021 Storey County Budget in the amount of \$214,467 General Fund, \$3,000 Road Fund, \$12,000 VCTC; all with a net adjustment of \$0.00 in total expenses, pursuant to NRS 354.598005, **Moved by:** Vice Chairman Mitchell, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Gilman, **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote, (**Summary:** Yes=3)

22. RECESS TO ADJOURN AS THE STOREY COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD

23. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: Consideration and possible approval of Resolution #21-621 to Augment the 474 Fire District Capital Projects Fund, pursuant to NRS 354.598005, in the amount of \$340,000.

24. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: Consideration and possible approval of transfer of funds within the 474 Fire District General Fund in the amount of \$182,988 and the Resolution #21-622 to Augment the 474 Fire District General Fund, pursuant to NRS 354.598005, in the amount of \$317,020.

25. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: Consideration and possible approval of Resolution #21-623 to Augment the 474 Fire District Mutual Aid Fund, pursuant to NRS 354.598005, in the amount of \$300,000.

Chairman Carmona indicated that items 23-25 would be heard and voted on as a single batch.

Comptroller McCain provided an overview of Resolutions #21-621, #21-622, and #21-623

Public Comment: None

Motion: I, Fire Commissioner Mitchell, pursuant to NRS 2354.598005, move to approve the following, Resolution #21-621 to Augment the 474 Fire District Capital Projects Fund, pursuant to NRS 354.598005, in the amount of \$340,000; transfer of funds within the 474 Fire District General Fund in the amount of \$182,988 and the Resolution #21-622 to Augment the 474 Fire District General Fund, pursuant to NRS 354.598005, in the amount of \$317,020; and Resolution #21-623 to Augment the 474 Fire District Mutual Aid Fund, pursuant to NRS 354.598005, in the amount of \$300,000, **Moved by:** Vice Chairman Mitchell, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Gilman, **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote, (**Summary:** Yes=3)

26. RECESS TO CONVENE AS THE STOREY COUNTY WATER AND SEWER BOARD

27. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: Consideration and possible approval of transfer of funds within the Storey County Water Fund in the amount of \$37,000, pursuant to NRS 354.598005

Chairman Carmona indicated that items 27-28 would be heard and voted on as a single batch.

Comptroller McCain provided an overview of the transfers.

No Public Comment

28. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: Consideration and possible approval of transfer of funds within the Virginia Divide Sewer Fund in the amount of \$9,000, pursuant to NRS 354.598005.

Comptroller McCain provided an overview of the transfers.

No Public Comment

Motion: I, Commissioner Mitchell, pursuant to NRS 354.598005, move to approve the following: transfer of funds within the Storey County Water Fund in the amount of \$37,000 and transfer of funds within the Virginia Divide Sewer Fund in the amount of \$9,000, neither of which will result in a net change in spending, **Moved by:** Vice Chairman Mitchell, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Gilman, **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote.

29. RECESS TO RECONVENE AS THE STOREY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

30. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: Consideration and possible verification of qualifications for an appraiser consistent with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 244.2795 and Storey County Code Chapter 2.22.100. Storey County has been approached by a property owner requesting an easement across Storey County owned property to construct a rail spur and driveway encroachment. The property is located within the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center, McCarran, Storey County, Nevada, located south of Denmark Drive, being Parcel 2017-28 and having Assessor's Parcel Number 005-061-52.

County Manager Osborne explained a property owner at TRI Center wants to construct rail spur and driveway encroachment across County owned property. An appraisal is required by County code. The appraiser must be qualified and on the County list. Tony Wren has been chosen to be the appraiser to figure out the cost of this easement. Mr. Wren's qualifications/resume are included.

Public Comment: None

Deputy District Attorney Keith Loomis said this is a complicated process. The job for the Board is to approve a qualified appraiser.

Vice-Chairman Mitchell: Asked if the applicant for the easement would pay the cost of the appraisal.

Mr. Osborne: All costs will be borne by the applicant.

Motion: In accordance with the recommendation by staff, I, Commissioner Mitchell, move to verify the qualifications of Anthony J. Wren & Associates to perform an appraisal of land associated with an easement for a proposed rail spur and driveway encroachment identified as parcel no. 2017-28, Assessor's Parcel No. 005-061-52, located within the Tahoe Reno Industrial Center, McCarran, Storey County, Nevada, **Moved by:** Vice Chairman Mitchell, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Gilman, **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote

31. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: Consideration and possible approval of business license Second Readings:

- A. Facilities Engineering - Out of County / 900 E. Orangefair Ln., Anaheim, CA
- B. Guckenheimer Services LLC - Out of County / 1017 Central Parkway North., Ste 100, San Antonio, TX
- C. Howard Street Home - General / 120 N. Howard St., Virginia City, NV
- D. Karaki Painting LLC - Contractor / 172 Edith Lane, Dayton, NV
- E. Subway - General / 420 USA Pkwy. Ste. 102, McCarran, NV

Public Comment: None

Motion: I, Commissioner Mitchell, move to approve the second reading of business licenses listed under item #31 - items #A through E, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by:** Vice Chairman Mitchell, **Seconded by:** Commissioner Gilman, **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote, **(Summary:** Yes=3)

32. PUBLIC COMMENT (No Action) None

33. ADJOURNMENT of all active and recessed Boards on the Agenda

Chairman Carmona adjourned the meeting at 2:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

By: Vanessa Stephens
Vanessa Stephens Clerk-Treasurer