



# STOREY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

1/6/2022 10:00 AM  
26 SOUTH B STREET, VIRGINIA CITY, NV

---

## **SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

JAY CARMONA  
*CHAIRMAN*

CLAY MITCHELL  
*VICE-CHAIRMAN*

LANCE GILMAN  
*COMMISSIONER*

ANNE LANGER  
*DISTRICT ATTORNEY*

JIM HINDLE  
*CLERK-TREASURER*

---

**Roll Call:** Commission Chairman Jay Carmona, Commission Vice-Chair Clay Mitchell, Commissioner Lance Gilman, County Manager Austin Osborne, Recorder Dru McPherson, Sheriff Mike Cullen, Deputy District Attorney Keith Loomis, Comptroller Jennifer McCain, IT Director James Deane, Fire Chief Jeremy Loncar, Public Works Director Jason Wierzbicki, Operations and Project Manager Mike Northan, Communications Director Becky Parsons, Business Development Manager Lara Mather, Community Relations Director Honey Menefee, Community Development Director Pete Renaud, Senior Center Director Stacy York.

---

### **1. CALL TO ORDER SPECIAL MEETING AT 10:00 AM**

Commissioner Carmona called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM

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

### **3. DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION:** Consideration and possible approval of the Agenda for the January 6, 2023, special meeting.

Public Comment: None

**Motion:** I, Commissioner Mitchell, move to approve the January 6, 2023, special meeting agenda as presented. **Seconded by:** Lance Gilman **Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT (No Action):** None

**5. DISCUSSION ONLY (No action, no public comment):** Committee/Staff Reports.

**Public Works Jason Wierzbicki.**

- Public Works is down to one plow in town. 2.5 plows available at best covering VC and the Highlands. One that got stuck in the Highlands is damaged.
- In TRIC, snowplows hit two trench plates, which totaled one truck. Another was damaged on Wild Horse Canyon Road. TRI is down to one plow.
- Public Works Snow Removal Process is to first do main streets, then secondary streets. Public Works cannot do private driveways.
- The department is short staffed, and many prospective employees don't want to come up to VC. When an applicant is hired it takes weeks of training to operate the equipment effectively and safely. Inexperience and/or insufficient training can damage equipment as well infrastructure (roads, curbs, gutters and culverts) and private property that will then have to be repaired later further burdening Public Works and County resources.

Commissioner Carmona offered his support to the department. Commissioner Gilman wanted to know in the coming days how to attract more employees.

**IT Director James Deane**

- Fiber line seems to have stabilized, which took three weeks. Still looking for another internet provider. Reaching out to Lyon County, which has had similar issues.
- Thanked Public Works for clearing IT area.

**Mitzi Carter, Human Resources Director**

- Pledged full support to Public Works' recruitment needs.

**County Manager Austin Osborne**

- Again, praised county staff for helping with storm issues.

**6. BOARD COMMENT (No action, no public comment):** None

**7. DISCUSSION/FOR PUBLIC ACTION:** Consideration and possible approval of Resolution No. 23-664 of the Board of Storey County Commissioners declaring a state of emergency in Storey County due to severe weather events causing significant accumulations of snow and precipitation, potential flooding, and extensive and reoccurring power outages caused by atmospheric river flows across the county between December 30, 2022, and February 7, 2023. The emergency declaration may provide the county access to state and federal funds and other resources which otherwise may not be available for its response to the weather emergency. This action should not cause alarm, but it should remind residents and businesses to be vigilant and prepare for storm events.

County Manager Osborne said that although the state has not declared an emergency, the county should do so now to become eligible for State & Federal funds and grants to mitigate the impact of weather-related expenses. County staff is working on action plans in preparation of expected future storm patterns. He encouraged resident to prepare now as well for snow, rain, flooding, and potential power outages. Helpful info can be found at [NVEnergy.com/outage\\_prep](http://NVEnergy.com/outage_prep).

Comptroller Jennifer McCain said this resolution would allow the county to use its emergency funds.

The Resolution was read into the record.

Public Comment: None

**Motion:** I, Commissioner Mitchell, move to approve Resolution No. 23-664 of the Board of Storey County Commissioners declaring a state of emergency in Storey County due to severe weather events causing significant accumulations of snow and precipitation, potential flooding, and extensive and reoccurring power outages caused by atmospheric river flows across the county between December 30, 2022, and February 7, 2023.**Seconded by:** Lance Gilman. **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously.

8. **DISCUSSION/FOR PUBLIC ACTION:** Consideration and possible approval to proceed with the purchase of a commercial-scale Larue D45 Compact Loader Snow Blower in the amount not to exceed \$195,906.25 to respond to substantial snow accumulation due to atmospheric river conditions, under minimal staffing conditions, and with recent damage to two existing snowplow trucks, and to provide more efficient and thorough snow removal each winter season across the county henceforth.

County Manager Osborne reminded all that the Comptroller may have fiscal items to go over.

Mr. Wierzbicki said that this unit, a commercial-scale D45 loader, goes in front of a heavy loader and can fire snow up to 80 feet away, so that rather than having two loaders going nose-to-nose to load snow into trucks for removal. Purchase of this new implement will free up personnel and equipment to do other things. It will prevent damage to curbs and gutters and can be used to assist NDOT.

He said it will not require specialized training, and it will be available in 7 to 10 days.

Commissioner Carmona said there was a comparable unit in the Virginia City Highlands.

Comptroller McCain reminded all that this item is unbudgeted. She can present an augmentation but said something will have to be shorted.

County Manager Osborne read a letter from local resident Nick Fain who suggested contracting with himself and others who have the equipment to assist the road crew, and they can bill the county.

Commissioner Carmona asked if postings for part-time winter positions were posted, and Mr. Wierzbicki said, "no," and when this was done several years ago there were no takers for the positions.

Comptroller McCain said costs will be higher if contractors are used, and the emergency declaration gives the county authority to do that, but the county was not set up as per federal government regulations.

County Manager Osborne said at \$180 per hour for labor & equipment, it would cost \$18,000 to pay for one person if contractors were used. He said it was possible to create those contacts.

In response to a question about brine usage, Mr. Wierzbicki said it isn't used except at TRI, as roads here are too steep to use it. He said it quickly washes off the road and becomes ineffective and, therefore, is a waste of time and money.

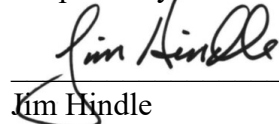
**Motion:** I, Commissioner Mitchell, move to confirm proceeding with purchase of commercial-scale Larue D45 Compact Loader Snow Blower in the amount not to exceed \$195,906.25 to respond to substantial snow accumulation due to atmospheric river conditions, under minimal staffing conditions, and with recent damage to two existing snow plow trucks, and to provide more efficient and thorough snow removal each winter season across the county henceforth... **Seconded by:** Lance Gilman. **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT (No Action):** None

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

Adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



---

Jim Hindle  
Clerk-Treasurer