



# STOREY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

3/2/2023 4:00 PM  
26 SOUTH B STREET, VIRGINIA CITY, NV

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## MEETING MINUTES

JAY CARMONA  
*CHAIRMAN*

CLAY MITCHELL  
*VICE-CHAIRMAN*

LANCE GILMAN  
*COMMISSIONER*

ANNE LANGER  
*DISTRICT ATTORNEY*

JIM HINDLE  
*CLERK-TREASURER*

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**Roll Call:** Commission Chairman Jay Carmona, Commission Vice-Chair Clay Mitchell, Commissioner Lance Gilman, Clerk & Treasurer Jim Hindle, County Manager Austin Osborne, Deputy District Attorney Keith Loomis, Recorder Dru McPherson, Sheriff Mike Cullen, 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

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### **1. CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING AT 4:00 PM**

Commissioner Carmona called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM

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

### **3. DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION:** Consideration and possible approval of the agenda for the March 2, 2023, special meeting.

Public Comment: None

**Motion:** I, Commissioner Mitchell, move to approve the March 2, 2023, special meeting agenda as presented. **Seconded by:** Lance Gilman. **Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT (No Action)**

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

None

#### **6. BOARD COMMENT (No Action - No Public Comment)**

Commissioner Carmona noted the passing of former Storey County Commissioner Chuck Haynes, and Highland's resident Steve Hinkle, who owned an Army surplus store and later an RV surplus store.

Commissioner Gilman said former Commissioner Haynes was a commissioner for only four years, but along with former Building Director Dean Haymore, and former Commissioners Bum Hess and Carl Trink, he was a visionary and instrumental in all the approvals that were necessary to move TRI forward. He said Haynes had the foresight to take the county to this level.

#### **7. DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION:** Update, discussion, and provide direction to county staff and lobbyists regarding upcoming bills and legislation affecting Storey County including, but not limited to, the following, and other properly related matters: AB63 I80 Safety Corridors; SB81 Regional Orderly Growth; any legislative BDR, bill, resolution, or other action of the legislature causing post-SB1 tax abatement revenues from the existing Gigafactory to be canceled, diverted away from Storey County, postponed, or extended; or other bills as brought forth at the meeting.

County Manager Austin Osborne focused on three pieces of legislation. SB81 – that includes cities and legislators in regional planning decisions - which he said received no support and 13 parties in opposition (including Storey County and NACO) at a recent hearing. Although Skip Daly still supported adding cities and legislators in regional planning, no action was taken. Mr. Osborne reminded the board that things can happen before a bill dies, so he said that staff should continue watching the bill. Commissioner Mitchell said that staff should not speak with Mr. Daly any longer as the county had made its presentation and Mr. Daly's perspective had not changed.

On AB63, the bill that sought safety corridor status for Interstate 80, which Storey County sponsored, Mr. Osborne said the cost was a problem for NDOT. The \$14 million estimated Fiscal Impact could kill the bill. NDOT was also concerned with procedural issues. NDOT and the county worked out a modified bill to keep the short-term solutions, such as the speed limit, lane rules and signage, but leave the long-term issues involving widening and other structural needs to NDOT's normal processes. He recommended that staff continue to talk and proceed accordingly. Commissioner Mitchell stated his support for this approach.

On any bills involving the Tesla Gigafactory 1 or 2, Mr. Osborne said a hearing at GOED on the Tesla Abatement Request was held. He said Storey County gave a presentation to the panel. He communicated that the county made an agreement with the state in 2014 to invest without getting any tax revenue, and the county would wait but would use that eventual

revenue for roads, infrastructure and other county needs. Gigafactory 2 is on track, and the staff is continuing to monitor in preparing for the next stages, which will come in the next month or two.

All commissioners supported the county's approach.

Public Comment: None

**Motion:** I, Commissioner Mitchell, move to direct staff and lobbyists to represent Storey County on each of the bills that we discussed and to proceed as discussed during this item.

**Seconded by:** Lance Gilman. **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously.

- 8. DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION:** Consideration and possible authorization for the County Manager to sign and approve a contract between Storey County and Sam Shad Productions producing and airing with Nevada Newsmakers a series of television commercials, website banners and links, audio and video podcasts and YouTube clips, and social media outreach program for a total cost of \$217,000 as specified in the attached scope of work, with an audience focus toward Nevada state and legislative leaders.

County Manager Austin Osborne said the contract was in response to what is going in the Legislature. He said that the legislators and their staff frequently watch Sam Shad Productions and Nevada Newsmakers, and this is tailored for them. There will also be podcasts, weekend shows on KOH radio, commercials and an infomercial to be made. Mr. Osborne said the cost is included in his current budget for professional services.

All commissioners supported this item.

Public Comment: None

**Motion I,** Commissioner Mitchell, authorize the County Manager to sign and approve a contract between Storey County and Sam Shad Productions producing and airing with Nevada Newsmakers a series of television commercials, website banners and links, audio and video podcasts and YouTube clips, and social media lobbying program for total cost of \$212,000, not to exceed \$217,000 as specified in the attached scope of work, with an audience focus on Nevada state and legislative leaders. **Seconded by:** Lance Gilman. **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously.

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

- 10. ADJOURNMENT OF ALL ACTIVE AND RECESSED BOARDS ON THE AGENDA**  
Meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jim Hindle  
Clerk-Treasurer