

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF CHURCHILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406

October 3, 2024

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was called to order at 8:15 AM on October 3, 2024.

PRESENT:

Commissioner Myles Getto
Commissioner Justin Heath
County Manager Jim R. Barbee
Comptroller Sherry Wideman
Deputy District Attorney Joseph Sanford
Deputy Clerk to the Board Pamela D. Moore
Deputy Clerk Crystal Muschetto

ABSENT:

Commissioner Harry Scharmann
Clerk/Treasurer Linda Rothery

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the board and public.

Public Comment:

Chair Getto asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Verification of the Posting of the Agenda:

It was verified by Pamela D. Moore, Deputy Clerk of the Board, that the Agenda for this meeting was posted on the 27th day of September, 2024, between the hours of 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM at all of the locations listed on the Agenda, in accordance with NRS 241.

Consideration and possible action re: Approval of Agenda as submitted or revised:

**Commissioner Justin Heath made a motion to approve the Agenda as submitted.
Commissioner Myles Getto seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

Consideration and possible action re: Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on:

A- September 5, 2024.

The Minutes of the meeting held on September 5, 2024 are presented for the board's consideration and approval.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Commissioner Justin Heath made a motion to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on September 5, 2024 as presented. Commissioner Myles Getto seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Appointments:

8:15 AM A- Consideration and possible action re: Swearing In Ceremony of the Fallon/Churchill Fire Department Officers for 2024-2025.

The following officers of the Fallon/Churchill Fire Department will be sworn in for 2024-2025:

2nd Assistant Chief - Kenneth "Russ" Jonte

3rd Assistant Chief - Mitch Young

Board members Chris Henning and Destry Johnson will be sworn in separately, as they were unavailable for the meeting on October 3rd. Fire Chief Jared Dooley and 1st Assistant Chief Randy Sharp have existing active oaths on file for their positions, as does Board Member Gary Johnson. Commissioner Myles Getto and City Councilman Paul Harmon are government representatives to the Fire Board.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Deputy Clerk of the Board Pamela Moore administered the oaths to Kenneth "Russ" Jonte and Mitch Young. Chair Getto thanked the men for everything they do for our community. This matter was conducted for the administration of the oaths of office and no action was taken.

B- Consideration and possible action re: Ratification of award and purchase of equipment for ADSD-funded Title III-C Nutrition Programs, from an Agreement between the State of Nevada, Department of Health and Human Services, Aging and Disability Services Division, and Churchill County Social Services, in the amount of \$8,053.

Social Services has been awarded funding to purchase a new commercial washer and dryer at the Life Center. The current household set is in need of major repair and has been determined not only to need to be replaced but to be upgraded to a commercial unit to support the amount of laundry completed daily.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$8,053.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: Equipment - \$8,053.

FUNDING SOURCE: Administration for Community Living; American Rescue Plan (ARP) for Home-Delivered Meals under Title III-C2 of the OAA.

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Shannon Ernst, Social Services Director, made this presentation as outlined above.

Chair Getto asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Commissioner Justin Heath made a motion to approve and ratify the grant as presented. Commissioner Myles Getto seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C- Consideration and possible action re: Adoption of Resolution 17-2024 declaring certain equipment of the Churchill County Road Department as surplus property and authorizing the disposal of said property in any manner.

Churchill County has certain pieces of personal property outlined in "Exhibit A" that are no longer suitable for public use due to the acquisition of newer or better-suited equipment or other alternatives. NRS 332.185 authorizes the Board of County Commissioners to declare personal property of the county as surplus and dispose of said personal property in any manner, including public auction. The included resolution finds that it is in the best interests of Churchill County to dispose of the listed personal property, with the intention that the items be sold at public auction. Most items are general county property and the proceeds will be attributed to the General Fund. Some of the vehicles are part of the forfeiture process in narcotics cases and those proceeds will be deposited in the Forfeiture Fund.

FISCAL IMPACT: Proceeds of the sale will inure to the county.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: Proceeds of the sale will inure to the county.

FUNDING SOURCE: General Fund or Forfeiture Fund.

ACTION REQUESTED: Adopt

Chair Getto read the title of the Resolution into the record:

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN EQUIPMENT OF THE CHURCHILL COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT AS SURPLUS PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF SAID PROPERTY IN ANY MANNER.

Chief Civil Deputy District Attorney Joseph Sanford made this presentation as outlined above.

Chair Getto asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Commissioner Justin Heath made a motion to adopt Resolution 7-2024 as presented. Commissioner Myles Getto seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

D- Consideration and possible action re: Appointment of Paul Harmon to fill the unexpired term of Sean Richardson on the Board of Directors for the Fallon Golf Course, Inc.

Fallon Golf Course, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that leases and operates the Fallon Golf Course. This organization has its Board of Directors appointed by the Churchill County Board of County Commissioners to ensure strong ties with its mission to provide a high quality course to the citizenship of Churchill County.

The corporation was initially formed in 2017 by the county to take over management operations of the golf course after the departure of the previous management company. The Bylaws of the corporation (attached) call for director appointments to be made by the Board of County Commissioners for two-year terms, with a potential extension of two years by vote of the other directors.

Sean Richardson was appointed on July 19, 2023 to fill an unexpired term through January 18, 2024, as a representative of the City of Fallon to the Golf Course Board of Directors. As outlined above, two-year extensions are permissible and, therefore, Mr. Richardson's term expires January 18, 2026. As he is no longer working for the City of Fallon, a new city representative, Paul Harmon, is being recommended for appointment to fill the unexpired term through January 18, 2026.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

County Manager Jim Barbee made this presentation as outlined above.

Chair Getto asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Commissioner Justin Heath made a motion to appoint Paul Harmon to the Board of Directors of Fallon Golf Course, Inc. with a term expiring January 18, 2026.

Commissioner Myles Getto seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

E- Consideration and possible action re: Application for community support funding from the Fallon Community Theatre, in the amount of \$3,000, to support the Maine Street Spooktacular event on October 31, 2024.

The Fallon Community Theatre, a non-profit organization, is applying for funding to support the Maine Street Spooktacular which joined forces this year with the Search and Rescue's Trunk-or-Treat to combine the event held on October 31, 2024. The event is free and is open to the public, and provides an opportunity for families to participate in activities and trick-or-treating together. The event expects 3,000 to 6,000 children and adults to participate and they have also secured several vendors. The benefits to the community aim to provide a safe environment for local families, spread community awareness of local businesses and organizations, provide an opportunity for families to interact with first responders, and provide free activities that some families may not otherwise be able to afford.

FISCAL IMPACT: FY25: If the board determines to apply the same percentage of budget reduction to this request as that which was applied to the Miscellaneous Grants line item reduction (-31%), the funding request for the Maine Street Spooktacular would be reduced to \$2,070.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: The Miscellaneous Grants line item of the Community Support Budget was funded with a 31% reduction for FY25, for a total amount of \$18,700 for the year. To date, \$15,930 remains for FY25.

FUNDING SOURCE: Community Support/Miscellaneous Grants Line Item: 100-401-70300

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Jessica Huckaby provided the board with an updated budget because they have received more donations in support of the event since the Application was submitted. She said she received an email today outlining a promised amount of \$250, so the total donations, as of this morning,

will be \$6,100.00. They have not received the official quote for the insurance or the portable toilets but their goal is \$1,740.00.

Last year, they had roughly 2,500 children attend the event. When you add in the adults, it could have been between 5,000 – 6,000. They have partnered with Search and Rescue this year, so the event will be bigger. They are now going to take up three blocks, from Williams Avenue to Stillwater Avenue. There will be free candy and activities, including a bounce house and pumpkin painting. She is hopeful the Sheriff's office will be there to read books to the kids. They will have an ambulance and fire truck, as well as Search and Rescue's equipment and a big cement truck. It is just a safe environment for the kids to have trick-or-treating and Halloween activities.

Chair Getto asked if there was any public comment but there was none. He informed Jessica that the county had to reduce its budget by 31% in FY25 and this event will also have the same budget reduction, which would be \$2,070.00.

Commissioner Justin Heath made a motion to approve funding in the amount of \$2,070.00 in FY25 to support the Fallon Community Theatre's Maine Street Spooktacular Event on October 31, 2024. Commissioner Myles Getto seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

F- Consideration and possible action re: Approval of an Agreement with A & K Earth Movers for the demolition of the existing building located at 60 West Richards Street, Fallon, Nevada, in the amount of \$49,500.00.

On August 26, 2024, the Public Works, Planning, and Building departments, along with Social Services, moved operations to 270 S. Maine Street, Fallon, Nevada, the Frazzini Building. To provide adequate parking for employees and county vehicles, the existing building located at 60 West Richards Street needs to be demolished and the site regraded. This will provide the county approximately 22 parking spots for employee and county vehicle parking.

FISCAL IMPACT: Estimated up to \$49,500.00 for all improvements.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: Cost to demolish the existing building and regrade the parking area.

FUNDING SOURCE: General Building Fund.

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Randy Hines, Public Works Director, made this presentation as outlined above.

Chair Getto asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Commissioner Justin Heath made a motion to approve the request of quotation to A & K Earth Movers, Inc. as the lowest responsible bidder in the amount of \$49,500.00 and to approve the County Manager to execute a Contract. Commissioner Myles Getto seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

G- Consideration and possible action re: Approval to allow Employee 1438 of the Churchill County Museum to take an unpaid leave of absence for up to an additional two months, until December 2, 2024.

Employee 1438 has been on an unpaid leave of absence for nearly a month, after first expending their annual leave and sick leave. This person is an excellent employee and has served Churchill County well for many years in their position. The department head and HR Director have reviewed the request and believe it is in the best interest of the county to authorize the unpaid leave for a period of up to two months.

Churchill County Code 3.04.030(A) authorizes the county board to approve a leave of absence to any employee upon request for a period not to exceed six months.

FISCAL IMPACT: Savings of wages for the position while on unpaid leave.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Chris Spross, Assistant County Manager/HR Director, made this presentation as outlined above.

Chair Getto asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Commissioner Justin Heath made a motion to allow Employee 1438 of the Museum to take an unpaid leave of absence for up to an additional two months, until December 2, 2024. Commissioner Myles Getto seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Letters Received:

A- Nevada Division of Environmental Protection's (NDEP) notification of its review of the Draft Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report, Installation Restoration Program Sites 1 and 14, at Naval Air Station Fallon, Nevada.

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) provides notification it has reviewed the Draft Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report for Installation Restoration Program Sites 1 and 14, at Naval Air Station Fallon, Nevada (Draft Report). The Draft Report was received by the NDEP on August 21, 2024 and was prepared by Trevet-Bay West Joint Venture LLC (Trevet-Bay West) on behalf of Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Southwest (NAVFAC SW).

The Draft Report summarizes groundwater monitoring results for IRP Sites 1 and 14, conducted in September 2023 and March 2024. The monitoring program was optimized in 2022, reducing the number of sampled wells from 16 to 11 and increasing the monitoring frequency to semi-annual events for two years, starting in September 2022 and ending in May 2024. NAVFAC SW plans to evaluate Sites 1 and 14 for groundwater exemption closure under Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 445A.22725(2) after completing four semi-annual monitoring events, with the March 2024 event marking the end of this two-year period.

The September 2023 and March 2024 groundwater monitoring events consisted of gauging water levels in 19 monitoring wells and collecting groundwater samples from 9 groundwater

monitoring wells across IRP Sites 1 and 14. Monitoring wells AE1-MW02 and MW-51U contained measurable amounts of free product and samples were not collected from these wells.

In September 2023, the depth to groundwater ranged from 5.20 to 11.01 feet below top of casing (ft btoc). Groundwater elevations in September 2023 were similar to 2022 levels. In March 2024, depth to groundwater ranged from 4.85 to 11.15 ft btoc. Groundwater elevations were approximately 0.14 to 0.35 feet higher during the March 2024 monitoring event than during the September 2023 event. The estimated groundwater flow direction was towards the southwest at a gradient of 0.001 to 0.02 feet/foot in September 2023 and March 2024. This is consistent with the historical groundwater flow throughout the facility.

Light non-aqueous phase liquid (LNAPL) was observed above the Nevada State Action Level of 0.5 inch (0.042 foot) in IRP Site 1 wells AE1-MW02 and MW-51U during the September 2023 and March 2024 monitoring events. During the September 2023 monitoring event, LNAPL was measured in AE1-MW02 at 1.11 feet and in MW-51U at 0.05 foot. During the March 2024 monitoring event, LNAPL was measured in AE 1-MW02 at 0.31 foot and in MW-51 U at 0.07 foot. These wells are located in the footprint of a historical LNAPL plume southeast of the former IRP Site 1 above-ground storage tanks (ASTs) that extended approximately 350 feet long by 200 feet wide. LNAPL was previously observed in well AE1-MW02 in October 2020 at a thickness of 2.5 inches and was removed at that time via hand bailing. LNAPL has not been observed above the Nevada State Action Level in AE1-MW02 since October 2020 and has not been observed in MW- 51 U since remedial action was taken in 2015. LNAPL was not observed in other monitoring wells at IRP Sites 1 and 14 during the September 2023 and March 2024 monitoring events.

Because monitoring wells AE1-MW02 and MW-51U contained measurable amounts of LNAPL, samples were not collected for laboratory analysis from these wells. Site contaminants of concern (COCs) were detected above project remedial goals (RGs) in seven of nine sampled wells at IRP Sites 1 and 14. COCs detected above their respective RGs in one or more wells included:

- 1,2-Dichloroethane (1,2-DCA): exceeded the RG of 3.9 micrograms per liter (µg/L) in two wells, with a maximum concentration of 200 µg/L in well CW-14-1-1.
- Benzene: exceeded the RG of 2.6 µg/L in two wells in September 2023 and three wells in March 2024. The maximum concentrations were detected in well CW-14-1-1 at 130 µg/L in September 2023 and 980 µg/L in March 2024.
- Trichloroethene (TCE): exceeded the RG of 2.1 µg/L in well MW-15L at concentrations of 13 µg/L in September 2023 and 17 µg/L in March 2024.
- 1-Methylnaphthalene: exceeded the RG of 1.1 µg/L in one well in September 2023 and two wells in March 2024. The maximum detected concentrations were 2.5 µg/L in well AE14-MW01 in September 2023 and 5.5 µg/L in well CW-14-1-1 in March 2024.
- Naphthalene: exceeded the RG of 0.17 µg/L in five wells in September 2023 and two wells in March 2024. The maximum detected concentrations were 4.3 µg/L in well AE14-MW01 in September 2023 and 21 µg/L in well CW-14-1-1 in March 2024.

Mann-Kendall trend analyses were conducted for COCs that exceeded RGs in site monitoring wells. The Draft Report concludes the plumes are stable or decreasing, except in wells with measurable light non-aqueous phase liquid LNAPL. However, the majority of trend analyses exhibit "no trend," indicating the evidence is not sufficient to conclude that a trend exists.

Based on the results of the September 2023 and March 2024 groundwater monitoring events, the Draft Report concludes that additional data is needed to determine whether groundwater exemption closure criteria have been met pursuant to NAC 445A.22725(2). Additionally, in accordance with the Record of Decision for the Sites, the Draft Report recommends that action be taken to address free product at IRP Site 1. Recommended action may include additional excavation or the use of passive skimmers to remove free product in impacted monitoring wells.

The NDEP has the following comments to the Draft Report:

1. Section 5 only provides general recommendations for additional data collection at IRP Sites 1 and 14 to satisfy the closure criteria described in NAC 445A.22725(2). Please revise Section 5 to provide a specific recommendation for continuation of the current semi-annual groundwater monitoring program or another monitoring frequency as appropriate.
2. The benzene isoconcentration contours shown in Figures 5 and 6 appear to be inaccurate. Specifically, the contour only encompasses well MW-I SL, which had benzene concentrations below the RG of 2.6 µg/L during both monitoring events. The contour should instead encompass wells MW-22 and CW-14-1-1 during the September 2023 monitoring event (Figure 5), and wells AE14-MW01, MW-22, and CW-14-1-1 during the March 2024 monitoring event (Figure 6). Please review the data presented and revise the contours as necessary.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

B- Nevada Division of Minerals notification of the 2023 Nevada Abandoned Mine Lands Physical Hazards Report.

The State of Nevada Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Program was created by the Nevada Legislature in 1987 in response to incidents, both fatal and nonfatal, which occurred at abandoned mines. The 2023 Nevada Abandoned Mine Lands Physical Hazards Report summarizes Nevada's AML Programs and activities statewide.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

C- Nevada Division of Environmental Protection's notification it has completed development of a Draft Discharge Permit for the renewal of National Pollutant Discharge

Elimination System Permit #NV0020061 for the Fallon Wastewater Treatment Plant in Churchill County, Nevada.

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) provides notification it has completed development of a draft discharge permit for the renewal of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit #NV0020061 for the Fallon Wastewater Treatment Plant in Churchill County, Nevada. The proposed permit will be effective for a period of five (5) years.

Comments on the proposed action or a request for a public hearing may be submitted to NDEP for a period of thirty (30) days following the date of publication of the Notice of Proposed Action or until September 27, 2024 at 5:00 PM. Should NDEP find that a significant degree of public interest exists, a public hearing may be held. If no hearing is held, they expect to issue the permit containing the final determination shortly after the expiration of the thirty (30) day comment period.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

D- Bureau of Land Management's notification that the Tonopah Field Office is in the process of developing a Herd Management Area Plan and Gather Plan Environmental Assessment for the Bullfrog Herd Management Area and the associated 30-day public scoping period.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) provides notification that the Tonopah Field Office is in the process of developing a Herd Management Area Plan and Gather Plan Environmental Assessment for the Bullfrog Herd Management Area and the associated 30-day public scoping period, which runs from September 17, 2024 to October 18, 2024. BLM will issue a news release notifying the general public of the availability of the document for review. Comments can be made and will be considered.

The Appropriate Management Level (AML) for the Bullfrog HMA is 58-91 wild burros and the post-foaling population, as of April 2024, is 966 wild burros. The action is needed to protect rangeland and riparian resources from deterioration associated with an overpopulation of wild burros, maintain a thriving natural ecological balance, and multiple use relationship on the public lands consistent with the provisions of Section 3(b)(2) of the 1971 *Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act*.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

New Business:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Purchase of a K-9 replacement for the Sheriff's Office from a kennel in California for \$9,500 and the funding options available for the purchase.

The Sheriff's Department had a K-9 who recently passed away, on September 10th, after a short struggle with an illness. The department is researching other K-9s to take his place and have located a kennel in California that comes highly recommended by the Carson City Sheriff's Office, one of the top K-9 programs in the area. There are several avenues available to the department for payment and the Sheriff will update the board on what he intends to do. Option 1 is to pay for the K-9 out of seizure funds, Option 2 is to confirm funding through the coalition (received verbal that this might be available), and Option 3 a mixture of Options 1 and 2.

FISCAL IMPACT: up to \$9,500.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: If no purchase of the K-9 is made, then this valuable program languishes and the investment in training, tools, and a vehicle fall idle. This purchase is timely in the aspect that we will be able to take possession of the K-9, do some familiarization with the dog, and then get it into training in Carson City along with the handler to meet P.O.S.T and judicial expectations. If we do not keep this program alive, we are limiting our ability to detect and seize illicit narcotics that are harmful to our community. This is the only narcotic sniffing K-9 in our community and is requested to assist multiple agencies.

FUNDING SOURCE: Seizure fund or outside source, the Churchill Community Coalition.

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Sheriff Richard Hickox made this presentation as outlined above. He said the K-9 program started under former Sheriff Bill Lawry in the 1980s. The canine has been utilized extensively not only for searching of cars and buildings for narcotics that are harmful to our community and the people who live here and travel through here but also as a public service or ice breaker at community days and in schools or businesses. Public members or kids that otherwise would not want to approach law enforcement see a dog and want to interact with the dog, which gives them the opportunity to provide a positive interaction with that kid or that family that they would not otherwise have.

As explained, the canine passed away unexpectedly on September 10th. We have a large investment into training and into our handler and a vehicle, not to mention synthetic narcotics to train that dog with, programs to track its training, and we have a strong need within our community to have a narcotics searching canine. We began the process to find a replacement. We had a lead within the State of Nevada, however, there were so many red flags that arose with that dog and surrounding that deal that we decided to back away because we felt the liability was too huge to strongly consider it. We met with other agencies in the area who have successful canine programs and they gave us some leads on which kennels to go to. Carson City told us about a kennel out of southern California, which they use exclusively. Our K-9 handler and his supervisor reached out to the kennel and they had just taken possession of some dogs. We went down and took a look at the dogs and they came back very excited about one of the dogs that they watched work. The canine is certified on narcotics that we are working to take off of our streets. We are trying to keep our community safe from these narcotics. This dog costs \$9,500 and it comes trained. We will send it back through some training with our handler just so that we can meet the requirements for the courts for the State of Nevada.

We have three options for payment. We have the Seizure Fund, which is money that is collected when we have seizures for narcotics or drug dealers. The stipulation on that fund is that it must

be spent with some form of drug enforcement nexus, which I have confirmed with our Comptroller and attorney. We feel strongly that a narcotic detection dog would fit that bill and that the purchase would fit within those parameters. We would like to utilize the fund for this. However, there are some other options that we would like to explore. The Churchill Community Coalition has indicated that they have \$5,000 that they would be willing to put forward towards the cost of that dog, which cuts the cost down to \$4,500 as our portion. They also have the option and are working with a grant that they already received for \$5,000 to purchase some narcotic disposal items for the Churchill County Sheriff's Office. They are looking to try to convert that \$5,000 from that to allow us to purchase the dog. If that is successful, then these two things would cover the cost of the dog. Those are our three options that we have. Either we pay the \$4,500 and they pay the \$5,000, we pay the full cost, or they pay all of it. We would like to move forward with this dog and feel strongly that the community needs one. It is not just used for the Churchill County Sheriff's Office but also helps the Fallon Police Department or Nevada Highway Patrol. We have helped a number of different agencies. It is a huge hit at community days, which allows us to have positive interactions with the public.

The reason we are asking to move forward with this quickly is that the dog is on hold for us until the 21st of October. We want to go down and pick it up, give it a couple of weeks with our handler, and then we have a spot reserved at Carson City's canine school for our handler and that dog to go through the training and get the certification for the courts. Both the handler and the dog are already certified but they need to be certified working together.

Chair Getto asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

County Manager Barbee asked what the age of the dog is and how long has it been trained and what is its usual life expectancy? Sheriff Hickox said the dog is 1 and a half years old. It has been trained for several months and is certified. Our officers got to watch the dog search for narcotics in an old abandoned mall, so they are satisfied. Other agencies who were there watching the dog also fell in love with the dog. We are very excited about the dog. The life expectancy of a dog varies by animal but we hope to get about 6-7 years out of the dog. That is what we got out of a former canine.

Commissioner Justin Heath made a motion to purchase a replacement K-9 through the Kennel in California for \$9,500 using forfeiture funds and community funding.

Commissioner Myles Getto seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Consent Items:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Report of the condition of each fund in the treasury and the statements of receipts and expenditures pursuant to NRS 251.030 and NRS 354.290.

A Fund Balance Report is attached indicating the beginning balance, receipts, disbursements, and the ending balance of each fund for Churchill County as required by NRS 251.030 and NRS 354.290.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

B- Consideration and possible action re: Public Works and Planning Department's Revenue Report for August 2024 showing a total of \$34,810.47 in revenue for the month.

The Public Works and Planning Department submits its Revenue Report for the month of August 2024 showing a total of \$34,810.47 in revenue. This report is provided for the Commissioners' review and acceptance.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$34,810.47 in revenue for the month.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: Fees to off-set services provided by the department.

FUNDING SOURCE: General Fund.

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

C- Consideration and possible action re: Treasurer's Report for August 2024 showing a total of \$66,965,099.79 in the bank.

Clerk/Treasurer Linda Rothery provides the Treasurer's Monthly Report for August 2024 showing a balance of \$66,965,099.79 in the account. The bank reconciliation was completed on September 16, 2024. This report is provided for the board's information and acceptance.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

D- Consideration and possible action re: Letter from the State of Nevada Office of the Attorney General to Churchill County Social Services stating that there were no findings or areas of concerns for the monitoring of the programmatic and fiscal areas of the subawards COSSAP (2021-COSSAP-09).

Churchill County Social Services has received a letter from the State of Nevada, Office of the Attorney General, stating that there were no findings or areas of concerns for the monitoring of the programmatic and fiscal areas of the subawards COSSAP (2021-COSSAP-09).

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

E- Consideration and possible action re: Letter from the Department of Health and Human Services to Churchill County Rural Public Health Laboratory stating that the laboratory will be recertified in the CLIA Program.

Churchill County Social Services has received a letter from the Department of Health and Human Services to Churchill County Rural Public Health Laboratory, which states that the laboratory will be recertified in the CLIA Program.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Chair Getto asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Commissioner Justin Heath made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. None seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Consider Future Agenda Items:

There were no future Agenda items suggested.

Commissioner and Management Staff Reports:

Chair Getto reported on the following topics:

- I had breakfast with the Mayor yesterday.
- I had a Library Board meeting last week.

Commissioner Heath had nothing to report.

Commissioner Scharmann was not present.

County Manager Barbee reported on the following topics:

- We have started taking the trailers off of the Casey Road property, so that will be cleared within the next couple of weeks. That is being hauled out to the City of Fallon's dump. The Road Department is doing that work for us. We hope to have it cleaned up and finished off with some gravel. We will come back to the board at a later date for a final approval on the cost to get that completely done. The City of Fallon is working hand-in-hand with us for the obvious benefits of public safety and eye appeal coming into town.
- We are getting a lot of action from developers now that money is starting to get a little bit cheaper. Some of those projects that are sitting as PUDs are being shopped around a little bit more actively in the last two weeks.
- We are continuing to move forward with the solar project in the north part of the county.
- We haven't heard anything new from SNPLMA in terms of an announcement there but we are told that that is being pushed on and, hopefully, there will be an announcement prior to the election.
- We continue to work on the Library issue with the middle school students obstructing access to the library after school hours. We are working with the school district to try to get them to step up and help us with costs for a security guard during those hours after school. We do not have a firm answer from them yet but we probably will bring

something to you in two weeks one way or another because it has gotten that bad. People can't access a public building. We have to do something.

Comptroller Wideman reported on the following topics:

- Our external audit starts on Monday.

Civil Deputy DA Sanford had nothing to report.

Deputy Clerk Moore reported on the following topics:

- The Clerk/Treasurer's office has been extra busy because the voter registration cards were mailed out by the state, as everybody's numbers changed, and we have been very, very busy taking those cards.
- Early voting starts on October 19th.
- Chair Getto expressed appreciation to Pam for everything she does for the Jim Regan Memorial Scholarship and golf tournament. She does all of the fundraising by herself and her family assists her with the tournament. She was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

Sheriff Hickox reported on the following topics:

- In August, myself and Captain Sweeney attended a POOL/PACT Conference in Elko that dealt with a variety of topics. One of them dealt with jail meds and the need for that. We got some interesting insight from the Lyon County Commissioners and a few other agencies that have gone through the process. We hope that will be beneficial to us in the long run when we sit down and talk about that.
- There is another thing that I want to bring forward to you so you know where we are at. I have spoken with our attorney on it briefly, which is an issue within the jail. When our jail was built in 2017, we used a contractor, Prime Coat, to put stuff in the padded cells. After that was installed, we then learned that the stuff that they use precludes the use of other products to help repair it. Their product is not compatible with any of the other companies that do padded cells. When we have damage to the cells, which we have had happen a number of times, we have to have them fly in and they have to bring in a bunch of equipment, which costs well over \$6,600.00 to have that done. The turn around time is extended for months sometimes. We are then down the use of that cell because it cannot be utilized while it is down. With two of the cells in our jail, being down a cell, with the current state of mental health and us having to use these cells frequently, as you are aware, it greatly hampers our ability to provide adequate and proper service for those cells. Right now, we currently have a damaged cell. Each time it is damaged, it costs about \$6,600. This is money that we do not ever recoup from the people just because they don't have it. We have reached out to that company to try to get them to come in and fix it. I think we finally got a response back but our requests have gone without a

response for quite a while. We started looking at other companies and found another company that is able to come in and take all of the padding off of that door and replace it with their padding. The good thing about that is that, if there is damage to that padded cell, they sale a patch kit that we or the maintenance crew could use on that door. The cost of those patch kits is sometimes a couple hundred bucks. To me that is a much better option for the long run of that facility because, right now, within the last year, we have had damage to that cell five times at a cost of \$6,600 each time. That other company will come in and replace that padding for \$5,500 or almost \$5,600. It is a significant cost savings up front and then, down the road, with the patch kits ranging from \$200 to \$1,000, with us being able to patch them, we would not be down that cell for that length of time. We feel it is a great benefit, so we are going to explore that option a little bit more. The other issue we see and think will be solved by this is that the other company doesn't tuck their edges in. With an exposed edge, it gives them something to tear at. This company we are looking at tucks their edges in a little bit tighter so it doesn't present that edge for them to pick at. We will have more information for you in the future. That cell that is down has been down for an extended period of time while we have been waiting on a response from Prime Coat and I don't feel like that is acceptable. We need all of those cells available and that is why they were put in there. We do have a strong need for both of those cells based on some of the mental health patients that end up in our jail.

- Chair Getto asked the Sheriff to start providing a report on crime-related activities, which he agreed to provide.

District Attorney Mallory reported on the following topics:

- I wanted to commend the Commission on the action on the K-9. That provides a tremendous force multiplier in many ways for law enforcement, so I greatly appreciate you considering that because it helps all of us to do our jobs.

Claims and Payroll Transmittals:

The Claims and Payroll Transmittals were submitted for the board's consideration and approval.

Public Comment:

Chair Getto asked if there was any public comment. Congressman Amodei said I am here representing Nevada's 2nd Congressional District, which is the top half of the state. I apologize if I held you up on anything as I was a little late. I am happy to report that the NDOT folks are alive and well straddling the Churchill County/Lyon County line on Highway 50. I am also happy to say to the District Attorney and to the Sheriff that I had no contact with any of their personnel on the way out here from my driving habits, which, as I get older, are not as exciting as I used to like to think they were.

I am mindful of the Commission's Agenda and its time, so I will go quickly through some broad brush things and then talk about some specific things that I think the County Manager

brought up in terms of follow up with the expansion bill for NAS Fallon and where we are at and what we are doing on those sorts of things.

Obviously, there is nothing going on at the national level, nobody cares about the Middle East, there is nothing going on with ports that don't have any impact on everybody and all of those sorts of things. The Secret Service hasn't been in the news for what is going on in terms of providing security for folks at the top of the ticket for the upcoming election. Of course, FEMA is not on anybody's mind because there is nothing going on with the hurricane throughout a large portion of the east coast. It is a little different for me this time because, as the sub-committee Chairman of the Homeland Security, we have the Secret Service's budget, FEMA's budget, and, as the number two person on the Interior sub-committee on funding, we also have a lot of say with what the Department of Interior/BLM is doing, as in the Carson District Office and the expansion bill for NAS Fallon.

You may have seen that people are saying there is no money in FEMA and they can't respond to what is going on in the southeast. I can tell you that there was about \$1.8B left in the FEMA fund on September 30th at the end of the federal fiscal year when we passed the Continuing Resolution. There is \$20B+ in that and so, and I know this is being streamed out, there is money for FEMA to conduct their operations in terms of providing that life-safety, immediate help to those folks in those five states in the southeast. I am not a weather man. If there are more hurricanes and stuff like that, then that changes the dynamic. Everybody needs to know that, at the federal level, when FEMA goes into an area, they have thirty days to determine what they think the initial bill will be. Why is that important? Because, if you are trying to provide funding for disaster relief, you need a target, so it is not even a moving target yet. They are fully funding life, health, safety, debris removal, and stuff like that. It is hard to burn through \$22B+ in the next less than thirty days. That doesn't mean there isn't more work to do and it doesn't mean that anybody is saying "mission accomplished and everything is fine". In terms of the political types playing their games by saying it is not funded, I am here to tell you, as the guy who has ultimate responsibility in the House for their budget, they are fully funded and they are performing their mission. By the way, the funding streams are not even the same with whatever the administration is doing with soft-sided shelters and what is going on at the border. Those are two entirely different pots of money. I am sure that will not change the narrative for the political Olympians but, if facts are important, there is plenty of money for them to do their job until we go back, which is the Tuesday after Veteran's Day, after the election, obviously.

With regard to the Secret Service, we went to them and asked what they needed to get through the election and what they needed to get through the Inauguration. We are not doing a wholesale re-whatever of the Secret Service – we want to chop the wood in front of us. They provided a number and we sawed off from that and that was in the Continuing Resolution, so the Secret Service has the funding they need to carry out their mission in terms of protection, buying more bullet-proof glass, more drones, and whatever they need to do. We did not try to get into their business, like me telling the Sheriff or the District Attorney how to run their offices. We asked them to tell us and we vetted that. I am here to tell you, unequivocally, that, if something changes, then we will deal with that but, for right now, we feel like we have done a

pretty good job of asking them to tell us what they need, why they need it, who they are buying the items from, and then providing the funding.

Getting a little closer to home, one of the other agencies that we have in the Homeland Security sub-committee is Cybersecurity Advisors (CSA), which are folks with a non-military mission. Why am I telling you folks that? That means for the utilities, the Sheriff's Office, that means private businesses, and stuff like that, they are a resource to every community in this state and every county in this state, obviously, including Churchill County. We have already had them come out with the head of the agency, a lady by the name of Jan Easterly, who is a West Point graduate, sorry Navy people. She is an impressive young lady. We have already had an initial meeting where we had law enforcement from the north and south, NV Energy, utility providers, the whole nine yards. I frankly told them that, since the Chairman happens to be from Nevada, I want Nevada people to have absolute unfettered access to those resources in terms of assisting when you are doing planning, when you have problems, or, at the county level, you are not sure you like your plan or if you want somebody to look at it to see how that looks. This involves the whole gamut of things that are non-DOD where CSA is there as a resource for you. If you think you need some help and you don't ask, shame on you because they are there for you and you ought to ask. Even if you think you are squared away, if you want to have us send them out to look at something informally, then do it and take advantage of that, whether you are the Sheriff, CC Communications, or one of your big private industries in the area, such as TCID or you name it.

Let's talk about the latest lands bill. Probably the biggest thing in it that I think is regionally significant for Churchill County is that there is language in that which talks about like a TRIC II. Obviously, since you guys are connected with that part of Lyon County in more ways than some days you like to talk about in terms of canals and TCID and all of that other fun stuff, that bill is set to be marked up in the House Natural Resources the week we get back in November. Obviously, I wanted it done a long time before that. The timing, as it turns out with what the Senate is or is not doing on a lot of things, doesn't turn out to be catastrophic or negative or anything else like that. The Homeland Security bill was passed off the House floor and also the Interior bill was passed off the House floor and the Senate hasn't done anything with either one of those but the good news with all of that is the conference process will be alive and well. When we talk about those roads, Pole Line Road and Sand Canyon Road, with BLM and also reimbursement with BOR for the weir cost and things like that that you folks have brought up, first of all, thanks for spending the money on somebody who is pretty skillful at the federal process for things like that, which is Kai Anderson and his folks. I am not here to do an advertisement for Kai, who is from Idaho but he is doing the best that he can for being an Idaho person. I think we will have plenty of opportunity in November, when we get back, to say to Jon Raby, whom I consider a friend, how much he can do at the state level to make sure that, when we talk about those roads and whether they are designated whatever for maintenance purposes, if he can't do that at his level, then we will give him plenty of help above his level at the BLM and Department of the Interior so we can get those straightened out so that you are not surprised in terms of not knowing that you would have to pay for something. We will get that squared away.

On a more local level, you are starting to get the initial folks who had grazing permits and stuff like that who were affected by the NAS expansion. The first one through, I think, are the Snows. We had a meeting with the Snow family. I had the Navy into my office two weeks ago to tell them not to go back to where we started because we put specific language in the bill to compensate these people accordingly for whether it is a grazing lease. The lawyers say, no offense Art, as I am a recovering lawyer myself, that they can't pay them because it is just a lease. Yes, they can pay them and out here those are valuable things and people rightfully value them as such. We are keeping a close eye on that. It will also be an opportunity, because we put language in to say, if you can find substitute grazing and they want it, then let's try to do that. We consider this process in making sure they follow up on everything that was included in the bill, such as payments to Churchill County, road stuff, and other things. Actually, when you get to this stage, passing the bill, which took parts of three Congresses, was harder than heck. Having said that, this will probably be the hardest part because you have to follow up, you have to follow up the follow up, and you have to keep following up. There is never an opportunity to say "mission accomplished". I think we will be dealing with that, in terms of an every day thing, for a while. I would love to be wrong and, if I am, please feel free to call me out and tell me I didn't know what I was talking about on that. We will continue to work on that. I want to thank Mr. Barbee for being a real-time responder and real-time communicator because, when people say, "Oh, we'll get around to it", then things don't get done when you say you will get around to it. That is top of the radar screen.

I also want to tell you one other thing that I shared with the Navy was that I was not saying it was happening and I was not telling them how to run the Navy but, when somebody makes a decision at Southwest Navy or in D.C. and then you turn around and give it to the local base Commander to be the bad guy, not that anybody ever sent me to charm school, but that is bad management and bad practice. I told them to quit making the local person, the guy who has to basically go punch everybody in the nose and tell them whatever it is. I didn't clear that with the Commander out here and I didn't clear this with him, so it is on the record, if the people who are making the decision aren't local folks, to put it on the local base Commander is wrong. Whoever is making those decisions ought to be the folks dealing with the locals instead of making the Commander do it. Just so you know, we will be watching that too, so we are dealing with people who are actually making the decision. If the local Commander makes that decision, then fine but, when we are trying to get the people who make decisions on that in the room so we can have a conversation like we are having right now, it doesn't help to have surrogates who weren't the ones really responsible for that.

I think I will stop there and see if there are any questions. You also need to know that my Deputy Chief and Legislative Director, Ken Brook, who has worked extensively on the NAS Fallon bill from the beginning and continues to be involved, is on the streaming of this meeting today, so feel free to say whatever you'd like to say and he will get it in real-time. Chair Getto asked if there were any questions.

County Manager Barbee said, when we talked to Ken a couple of days ago, he gave us the heads up that it looks like the funding for the preliminary engineering through EPA is going to start rolling, so I was going to give you the opportunity to take a bow for that. We appreciate

your help on finally getting that pushed through, which is about \$300,000.00. We have already expended it but that reimbursement will come in and that is helpful. Any help that you continue to give us on those earmarks we greatly appreciate. Just as you said, somebody who has worked on the lands bill, we appreciate that it is not going to happen quickly and I think you are absolutely accurate on that but we are committed to work with you on getting that across the finish line. It will just take some time. I can tell you, and I am happy to do it on the record, I love the folks at BLM but we have not made much progress on land transfers, in my opinion, on the checkerboard component on that. We are very hopeful on the SNPLMA funds and we are grateful for your assistance working with Kai and our folks back there to get that done because you did a heavy lift on that and we appreciate that. Congressman Amodei said thank you but, so you know, the view in our neighborhood is that people expect stuff to drag on and then look back at it being 3 or 4 years ago. Quite frankly, if you can't get it done in some sort of timely manner. We tried to be pretty specific in the legislation with help from everybody involved, so when you see those things starting to go the normal way, that is not going to work or, why is it taking this long and if you need additional resources or you need us to talk to somebody else, if the balls in the Navy's court or in BLM's court, we can help. I think, Jim, we are probably at the point where, in November, we will put everybody in the room, which is you folks, the local Navy folks or the Navy folks from wherever, and BLM at the state level and Carson District level, and then just start going down the list. You guys have it and we have it too – this list of stuff that was going to be done as part of this. As I look down that list, nothing is ahead of schedule. Mr. Barbee added that I think there will be a national security component that we haven't talked or shared with you guys yet on two of those properties that need to be transferred over, so I think that will help us tee it up and maybe get a little more action, as well. We love Ken. He has been great and we love communicating with him. Congressman Amodei said, for a guy who graduated from McQueen High School, he is doing pretty good. Mr. Barbee joked definitely not Douglas or Carson. There was no further discussion. Chair Getto thanked the Congressman for everything he does for Churchill County and rural Nevada. There was no further public comment.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 AM.

Quarterly Jail Inspection:

A- Pursuant to N.R.S. 211.020, the Commissioners will conduct the Quarterly Jail Inspection at the Churchill County Jail upon the close of meeting to inquire into the security of the jail and treatment and condition of the prisoners.

Pursuant to N.R.S. 211.020, the Commissioners will conduct the Quarterly Jail Inspection at the Churchill County Jail upon the close of meeting to inquire into the security of the jail and treatment and condition of the prisoners. A report of the inspection will be prepared and recorded.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

The quarterly jail inspection was conducted following the close of the meeting and a separate report was recorded.

Approved:



Myles Getto, Chairman

Approved:



Harry "Bus" Scharmann, Vice-Chairman

Approved:



Justin Heath, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer



Pamela D. Moore, Deputy Clerk of the Board