

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF CHURCHILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406
September 4, 2025**

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was called to order at 8:16 AM on September 4, 2025.

PRESENT: Commissioner Myles Getto
Commissioner Eric Blakey
Commissioner Matt Hyde
County Manager Chris Spross
Comptroller Sherry Wideman
Deputy District Attorney Joseph Sanford
Clerk/Treasurer Linda Rothery
Deputy Clerk to the Board Pamela D. Moore

ABSENT: N/A

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 28th day of August, 2025, between the hours of 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM at all of the locations listed on the Agenda, in accordance with NRS 241, except for the State's website due to the state-wide security breach.

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

Commissioner Hyde made a motion to approve the Agenda as submitted. Commissioner Blakey seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

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

A- July 3, 2025.

The Minutes of the meeting held on July 3, 2025 are presented for the board's consideration and approval. Staff shortages in the Clerk/Treasurer's office have caused delays to the completion of Minutes and the board is asked to make this finding as cause for the delay in completing Minutes by this office.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Consideration and possible action re: Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on July 3, 2025:

Commissioner Blakey made a motion to find that the staff shortages in the Clerk/Treasurer's office have caused delays to the completion of Minutes and made a motion to approve the Minutes as submitted. Commissioner Hyde seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Appointments:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Adoption of a Joint Proclamation between the City of Fallon and Churchill County declaring September 2025 as Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month.

Since May 2024, community members have come together to develop a Crisis Intercept Model and Suicide Prevention Plan. The plan is not complete but has increased insight into community education and support that is needed.

Suicide is real in the community, and many are either unaware of the help that is available or feel ashamed to ask for help when needed. Stigma is real around mental illness, not only in our community, but worldwide. As the community moves forward to reduce overall stigmatism, it is the goal to utilize awareness campaigns to educate the community on resources available, increase engagement on resources and access barriers, and overall increase community involvement.

September 2025 is Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month. We are asking Churchill County and the City of Fallon to approve the joint Proclamation for our community. If approved, the proclamation will be read at the kick-off event on September 13th, 2025, at 5:00 PM at the Maine Street fountain. There will be a reading, handouts of items from Nami, a suicide prevention support organization, and a ceremonial dying of the fountain. Furthermore, this year, the street will be closed off until 6:30 PM; approval by the City of Fallon is pending, to allow for expanded resources to be present and mindfulness activities to be provided to the community. Starting on the 9th, a joint media campaign will kick off with daily messages on resources, support, and awareness information through the county and school district media outlets. The city's participation was not confirmed at the time of this agenda report.

September is not the only month this will all take place. It is the goal of the committee to increase calendared events all year long to increase resource access, community/educator training, and build a supportive community overall.

We are asking that a Commissioner will join us to provide the reading of the joint proclamation.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Adopt

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

Chair Getto asked If there were any public comments, but there were none.

Commissioner Matt Hyde made a motion to adopt the Proclamation declaring September 2025 as Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month and to support education as presented. Commissioner Eric Blakey seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B- Consideration and possible action re: Adoption of a Joint Proclamation with Churchill County and the City of Fallon designating September 2025 as Library Sign-up Month.

Libraries are constantly transforming and expanding services to meet the evolving needs of communities across Nevada. Librarians lead the way in creating inclusive spaces, both physical and digital, developing diverse collections for people of all backgrounds to connect and learn together. Libraries open a world of possibilities through resources and services to help people of all ages pursue their careers and passions. Libraries play an important role in the education and development of children and give students the tools to succeed in school and beyond, as well as bridging the digital divide by providing a full range of information and services to children and adults. Signing up for a library card is the first step toward positive community engagement and lifelong achievement.

The board is asked to adopt the Joint Proclamation encouraging our citizens to sign-up for library services.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Adopt

County Manager Spross made this presentation as outlined above.

Chair Getto asked If there were any public comments, but there were none.

Commissioner Eric Blakey made a motion to adopt the Joint Proclamation declaring September 2025 as Library Sign-up Month as presented. Commissioner Matt Hyde seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C- Consideration and possible action re: Approval of a Sending Site Application, TDR25-1, filed by Marc Simoncini of Lonesome Duck Ranch, LLC, for properties located at 7615, 7625, and 7925 Beach Road, Assessor's Parcel Numbers 006-871-04 and 006-871-05, consisting of a total of 156 acres with 15.57 water righted acres, in the A-10 zoning district whereby the Applicant proposes to record a Conservation Easement on the properties.

This Application is for approval of a Sending Site and Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) calculation. The property is mostly water-righted, with the remainder being canals, drains, and farm roads. The remaining irrigated acreage is farmed with temporary water or farm map water.

Sending Sites have minimum requirements:

- 20-acre minimum parcel size or identified as a special site (CCC 16.14.050).
- Areas removed from irrigation or stripped of vegetation do not pose a dust liability (CCC 16.14.030.D).

Sending Sites must provide a community benefit listed below, by means identified in CCC 16.14.030.B:

- Agricultural preservation and retention of water rights.
- Protection of military operations.
- Protection of water recharge areas.
- Protection of open space.
- Protection of wildlife habitat.
- Providing public access.
- Other special benefits.

This property qualifies for the minimum standards by meeting the acreage requirement and dust control requirement. This property provides community benefit by:

- a) Agricultural preservation with water rights retention on most of the parcel.
- b) Protection of military operations.
- c) Protection of water recharge areas.

The Sending Site Committee reviewed the Application on July 21, 2025 and recommended approval of the Sending Site. The committee recommended a total of 93 TDRs based upon the standard calculations. The Planning Commission reviewed the Application on August 13, 2025 and recommended approval of the Sending Site and 93 TDRs.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE:

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Randy Hines, Public Works Director, made this presentation as outlined above. Mr. Hines noted that the property is within the potential accident zone at the end of the Naval Base runway. The Navy was opposed to any land division prior to this application.

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

Commissioner Matt Hyde made a motion to a) approve the Sending Site Application for Lonesome Duck Ranch, LLC, based on providing the community benefits of preserving 156 acres of farmland with surface water-rights; protecting nearby military operations; and protection of water recharge areas; and b) to approve 93 TDRs for the properties. Commissioner Eric Blakey seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

D- First Reading - Consideration and possible action re: Bill 2025-A, Ordinance 32, an ordinance amending Title 16 of the Churchill County Code and establishing the I-1, I-2, and I-3 zoning districts; deleting the I zoning district; defining the zoning and design review process; establishing zoning requirements for existing and additional industrial land uses; clarifying the requirements for power generation facilities; and other matters related thereto.

This Ordinance deletes the current I Industrial Zoning District and replaces it with the I-1, I-2, and I-3 Zoning Districts. The I-1 Zoning District is intended for light industrial uses, the I-2 Zoning District is intended for medium industrial uses, and the I-3 Zoning District is intended for heavy industrial uses. The ordinance defines the review process and requirements for various new and existing industrial uses in the newly established districts. These changes will allow for a more granular approach in addressing industrial uses throughout Churchill County. The ordinance further establishes the Conditional Zoning Permit process, which allows for the authorization and conditioning of particular land uses through an administrative review. The ordinance further clarifies requirements for all power generation facilities instead of just renewable energy facilities to address a gap in the Churchill County Code requirements.

The Planning Department held two joint workshops, on April 22 and June 24, in which we went over the proposed industrial code changes and a revised zoning map. The highlights of the code changes are as followed:

- Assigned names for each industrial zone.
 - I-1 – Commercial Industrial
 - I-2 – Industrial
 - I-3 – Heavy Industrial
- Section 16.08.250 - Use Table For All Zoning Districts.
 - Deleted the original table and replaced it with a new table that includes the three industrial zones.
 - Revised the table to indicate what uses are allowed, allowed with SUP, or prohibited in the new industrial zones.
 - Removed the Administrative Special Use Permit and grouped them with the Conditional Zoning Permit.
- Added section 16.08.065 – Zoning Reviews.
- Added section 16.08.075 – Conditional Zoning Permit.
 - Use allowed through a Conditional Zoning Permit – Designated C in the land use table.
- Made minor edits to section 16.08.080 – Special Use Permits.
- Added section 16.08.085 – Conditional Use Permits.
 - Conditional Use Permit is a permit to operate a facility where an explosive, highly hazardous substance designated pursuant to NRS 459.3816 is present in quantities greater than designated in NRS 459.3816, or a hazardous substance adopted pursuant to NRS 459.3833 will be used, manufactured, processed, transferred, or stored.
- Revised section 16.24.010 – Definitions Generally
 - Revised or added new definitions for industrial uses.
- Revised section 16.16.030 - Renewable Energy Facility.
 - Changed renewable energy facility to power generation facility.

- Power generation facilities are classified by the source of the power generated, being fuel-based resources (including generators) and renewable resources.

We received a letter from SB Energy (included in the Agenda Packet) requesting that solar-powered major power generation be considered a conditional zoning permit in the I-2 and I-3 zones.

The proposed code changes were presented to the Planning Commission on August 13, 2025, and were recommended for approval by the Planning Commission, including solar-powered major power generation be a Conditional Zoning permit in the I-2 and I-3 zones.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

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

Commissioner Blakey asked what the difference between a Conditional Use Permit and a Special Use Permit is. Mr. Hines provided a breakdown of the Special Use Permit: it requires a pre-application meeting with the applicant to discuss the project, and, after the meeting, the applicant will submit the application through the online portal. Once the application is received and deemed complete, notice will be sent to property owners that are within 300 feet of the surrounding property, or 30 unique owners, whichever is greater. Any comments received will be reviewed by staff and presented to the Planning Commission with the packet. Staff will ensure all requirements are consistent with the requirements of Title 16 of the Churchill County Code, which include but are not limited to, if the project is compatible with existing land uses and development, substantial conformance of the Master Plan, and will be constructed and operated with full compliance with Churchill County Code, the project will not burden public services and infrastructure, adequately mitigates road and traffic impacts during construction, and does not create adverse environmental impacts, including but not limited to, noise, glare, fumes and odor. Each application is reviewed and investigated for compliance. Based on the complexity of the project, it could be sent out for third party review. The application will be heard at a scheduled Planning Commission meeting with the applicant, and a decision will be made by the Planning Commission. Staff typically prepare conditions of approval for the Planning Commission, but the Planning Commission may apply additional conditions. Mr. Hines stated that the Conditional Zoning Permit basically follows the same function and requirements, but based on the findings, the final decision will be made by the Public Works Director.

Mr. Hines read from the letter from SB Energy where it stated this is in regard to major solar power generation. As it sits today, major solar power generation requires a Special Use Permit in zones I-1, I-2, I-3 and RR-20. SB Energy is a renewable energy developer committed to advance in a portfolio of energy solutions. We respectfully urge the Churchill County staff and Planning Commission to designate major power generation projects, such as our proposed 40 mile north solar project. This is a project they're proposing along the I-80 corridor, just south of

the Sierra Solar Project. As subject to a zone interview, rather than requiring a Special Use Permit in the I-2 and the I-3 heavy industrial zones. What they're asking is that to be a Conditional Zoning Permit in the I-2s and I-3s. Currently their parcels that they have up there are RR-20, so that would require a Special Use Permit. They also add that the current industrial zone framework (noted on page 4) highlights the diverse range of industrial activities from concrete plants to battery testing facilities, each requiring individual review. Unlike many extensive uses, utility scale and battery storage facilities, such as 40 mile north solar project, are low impact, non-disruptive and environmentally benign making them well suited for stream line zoning reviews. As outlined on page 11, the zoning review ensures projects are constructed and operated in a manner that does not over burden public services, mitigates road and traffic impacts and avoids or mitigates adverse environmental effects such as noise, glare, fumes and odors. Solar projects inherently meet these standards, they generate minimal noise, are secured by perimeter fencing, and pose no risk to fuel spillage, explosion, or chemical hazards, unlike some of the more extensive uses permitted in the I-3 (page 4). Furthermore, utility scale solar technology relies on anti-reflective technology to greatly reduce glint and glare associated with some smaller installations. So, additionally, they respectfully request clarification of the half mile set-back from highway reference in the zoning framework, and request that Churchill County Code 16.16020.2 for the half mile set-back from the highway. Currently, it sits on the half mile set back for explosive uses or brothels, or two other things, that aren't allowed within a half mile of the highway corridors. That note was added along with the renewable energy, along solar, so that was taken off amid concerns that they wouldn't be able to put anything in that half mile set back. This was presented to the Planning Commission, and it was proposed to the Churchill County Board of Commissioners that those would be a Conditional Zoning Permit in I-1 and I-2. The Planning Commission agreed with SB Energy in that it is a low impact use. Similarly, the Sierra Solar Project, just north of this project, which was presented to the Planning Board, and the board agreed with the requests regarding conditional zoning. Commissioner Blakey stated, with regard to the Conditional Zoning Permit, the industrial zones are developed to progress into the future and make it inviting for businesses to come here. Here we go with an I-1, I-2, I-3 and a lot of them have Special Use Permits still required, so does the staff have any thoughts on, like especially the I-3 zone to make those conditional on most of the items that are in I-3, just let that be a Conditional Use Permit instead of there still being a Special Use Permit? If we develop these zones and we want to attract people here, this chart can still turn them off if they see that they have to go through a Special Use Permit, when the Conditional Use Permit, as you stated, has the same ramifications to do business here, then our qualified staff, is able to determine if it needs go above their level. So, I feel comfortable, but how do the other Commissioners feel about the I-3 area, do we have to have a Special Use Permit for all this stuff, or can we get a condition on those and change it in the chart? Chair Getto stated that if it's an I-3, he would like to see it stay as a Special Use Permit. Commissioner Blakey stated the chart was made but nothing was accomplished since everything is already a Special Use Permit. Mr. Hines had the chart displayed and stated that on the chart there are Cs and Ss, and the S is kept there due to that being hazardous materials, which could roll into a Conditional Use Permit, depending on what materials are being used. If a company is using something on the NRS list of highly hazardous materials, that will not be a Special Use Permit, it would be a Conditional Use Permit, again with more restrictions on the permit if necessary. Explosives are also an S. All but three categories require a Conditional

Zoning Permit, requiring an administrative review. Regarding the energy production, there are private powered generation (solar panels on homes), minor powered generation (500 KW or less i.e.; hospitals or clinics), major powered generation is renewable and fuel based. This was kept as a Special Use Permit throughout each zone because that was the discussion with the Planning Commission. They are different energy productions in the same grouping. If they were split, as SB Energy is purposing, another line would be added to state that major solar powered generation would be used if agreed upon by the Commission, there would be an S & RR-20, S & A-10, maybe an S & I-1, and with the proposal it would be a C & I-2 and I-3, that line item added, an iteration in the second workshop where there are two energy production. Going back through the Churchill County Code and changing it from renewable energy facility to powered generation facility, grouping everything together, hence why everything is an S. In the industrial uses, we've accomplished having more Conditional Zoning Permits in those uses, which was not achieved here since it was all grouped into one. Changes can always be made to the final one in two weeks.

Commissioner Blakey stated he feels they've restricted businesses for several years and we do this and are still restricting businesses. He asked if the Planning Commission approved it to go before the Board of County Commissioners and create another line and pull out the solar portion, to which Mr. Hines stated that is correct, to have solar powered be its own line, having designations as C in I-2s and I-3s. A lot of that came from the recent Sierra Solar Project. Commissioner Blakey asked if the board needs to agree or deny that part of the proposal. Mr. Sanford stated that the board would need to give guidance for what they wanted in the final approval, and Planning would make the changes and prepare the final approval within two weeks. Mr. Hines stated that when the Commissioners discuss this, remember that the property is zoned RR-20, and is not on the Zoning Map provided. If this is approved, it is assumed that they would come in for a zone change to be changed to I-3, running along the I-80 corridor. Keep in mind, that if this is a change you are in favor of, we could, potentially, have solar panels in Hazen along the highway, also along Highway 95 coming into town. Again, I think I-80 is a different animal than 95 and 95 is a different animal than 50, and I think we get the majority of our traffic from 50 and not necessarily on I-80 and 95. So, if that is approved, keep that in mind regarding the solar panels in Hazen.

Chair Getto stated he would personally like to keep solar inside of the major power generation option and keep it all Special Use Permits, just for the fact that we are able to limit where we can put that. We all say solar is benign, solar is not really benign in that it takes thousands of acres for power generation, and I do not want this entire valley spread across with solar panels. If that's the case, solar companies might start buying farms and putting in solar panel on top of farms, with the new Legislative Bill. I personally want it kept to one lot and it all requires a Special Use Permits. Commissioner Hyde agrees stating with the I-3 with the Special Use Permit, my intention would be if there is going to be hazardous materials, I would just as soon like to see as many eyes on it than not. Chair Getto said if you look at that chart, the other thing about I-3, is that there already is quite a few Cs and some Ss, for the safety of our community, so the public can have input and know what is going on, and it's not just the staff doing it, though I trust the staff 100%, but it opens up the process a lot more. Commissioner Hyde said he feels like this has done a lot for people that are coming in wanting to develop, just looking at this, "Hey, this is where my project fits, this is where my project doesn't fit", so I think it has

done a lot for that. Commissioner Blakey stated that it is definitely cleaned it up, and it is a lot of stuff that required a Special Use Permit never really needed a Special Use Permit to begin with. So, that is where a lot of your Cs come from already. It is just a tough position to be in, like we made the chart, it's great, whatever, but if we are still restricting people, there is definitely no party being over here. I understand your feelings, I understand how you guys want to go, and I definitely do not want to be the odd man out. Chair Getto asked if that offered enough clarity and if they were agreement to keep major solar powered generation. Mr. Sanford stated, yes that is the easiest one for me and it will be exactly the way it is presented today.

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

Commissioner Matt Hyde made a motion to set a public hearing on this ordinance for September 17, 2025. 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, 2025.

The Fallon Community Theatre, a non-profit organization, is applying for funding to support the Maine Street Spooktacular, which is a joint event with the Search and Rescue's Trunk-or-Treat held on October 31, 2025. The event is free and is open to the public and provides an opportunity for families to participate in activities and trick-or-treat 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: FY26: 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 (-56.4%), the funding request for the Maine Street Spooktacular would be reduced to \$1,307.49.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: The Miscellaneous Grants line item of the Community Support Budget was funded with a 56.4% reduction for FY26, from an already reduced (-31%) budget in FY25. To date, \$6,842.51 remains for FY26.

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

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Alexa Robinson, Executive Secretary, made this presentation as outlined above.

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

Commissioner Eric Blakey made a motion to approve funding in the amount of \$1,307.49 to support the Fallon Community Theatre's Maine Street Spooktacular Event on October 31, 2025. Commissioner Matt Hyde seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

F- Presentation on ServWell Project completed at the Social Services William N. Pennington Life Center to evaluate food waste and recommendations for cost savings. Churchill County Social Services was asked by the State of Nevada, Aging and Disability Services, to be one of five centers to participate in a pilot project to evaluate food waste and evaluation for cost reduction in Nevada.

The project was conducted with Life Center staff and volunteers through ServWell. It launched on May 5, 2025. During the 30 days, the cost was assessed for purchases, then weighed as to meal waste and pan waste. At the end, data was provided as to the costs and weights of pan and plate waste. ServWell provided recommendations.

Social Services staff only had one concern about the report and evaluation: Pan waste was not able to be reported as frozen for weekends and holidays, so the value is not believed to be 100% accurate.

William N. Pennington Life Center staff met and discussed the recommendations:

Meal Cost vs. Contributions. Average cost \$6.18, average contribution \$2.00	1. Include the full cost/meal of \$6.18 on your signs 2. Eliminate the suggested contribution amount – replace it with "give what you can when you can" language 3. Engage in discussions with the clients about the importance of their contributions 4. Give congregate clients a periodic statement of the number of meals they received and a return envelope for their donation.
Loss of \$26,428 / year for over-ordered meals	1. Implement a reservation system (long-term) 2. Find the reason for higher pan waste on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays 3. Add fortified juice as a milk alternative
Plate Waste	1. Use a focus group to explore the reasons for plate waste

Based on the recommendations, population served, and overall culture of the Life Center, it has

been determined to implement the following effective 10/1/2025:

1. Implement "give what you can when you can" language.
 2. Educate participants on the cost of each meal and what we are funded for to increase awareness of the importance of the contributions.
 3. Post the cost of the meals each day on the meal board and include the cost on MOW films when the new digital machine is implemented.
-
1. Evaluate the higher pan waste days of Monday, Tuesday, and Friday
 2. Implement fortified juices as a milk alternative
-
1. Reintroduce "Turkey Talk" to discuss the reasons for plate waste based on the data

Six months after implementation, ServWell will return to conduct another 30-day evaluation to determine the success of the implementation of the recommendations.

The team found this to be valuable, not only to bring awareness to staff, but also to build an educational process for Life Center participants on the cost of the meals provided.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

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

Commissioner Hyde said he agrees that he does not like the reservation recommendation, stating that he does not think it would work well, and he does not want to go down that route. We do not want to turn anybody away because of that, and Chair Getto agreed. Ms. Ernst said it is open; if you want to have a meal and socialize, please come in. Commissioner Blakey thanked Ms. Ernst.

Chair Getto asked if there was any public comment but there was none. This item was presented for informational purposes only, and no action was taken.

G- Consideration and possible action re: Ratification of an Agreement between the State of Nevada, Department of Human Services, and Churchill County Social Services, in the amount of \$100,000, to provide support services for individuals that report being in crisis to access mainstream resources that support independent living.

Churchill County Social Services has been awarded \$100,000 to support the expanded transportation, medical support, and Meals on Wheels Program from the State Grants

Management Unit. The funds include outreach and wraparound service coordination for the vulnerable population to support safe and healthy independent living.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$100,000 - Fund for Healthy Nevada.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: Personnel- \$88,011.00; Travel- \$553.00; Operating- \$529.00; Contractual / Consultant- \$3,000; Other- \$500.00; Indirect Costs- \$7,407.00.

FUNDING SOURCE: Title XX Social Services Block Grant.

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 Matt Hyde made a motion to approve and ratify the Agreement for grant funding as presented. Commissioner Eric Blakey seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote

H- Consideration and possible action re: Approval of the Transition Plan for Churchill Area Regional Transportation (CART) to Churchill County, effective October 1, 2025, as well as the revised job descriptions, and the Operation Plan.

On March 6, 2025, the Board of County Commissioners approved the absorption of Churchill Area Regional Transportation (CART) into Churchill County. Shannon Ernst, Director of Social Services, was instructed to submit two grants to the Nevada Department of Transportation for FTA funding, one for operations and one for bus purchases to align with the CART replacement plan. Ms. Ernst completed the submissions as requested per the grant guidelines on March 10, 2025.

It was instructed that, once the determination on funding was obtained from NDOT, the board would determine the most cost-effective operation structure.

Previously, in January 2025, Ms. Ernst was awarded \$46,000 from the State of Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) to support the evaluation of embedding transportation in the county structure. The board approved these funds in January 2025. The funds were set to expire on June 30, 2025, but were extended until September 30, 2025. Ms. Ernst has obtained verbal approval that the funds will be extended until December 31, 2025 to ensure proper utilization.

On August 4, 2025, County Manager Spross hired an Administrative Assistant with the primary role to support grant implementation and oversight in the County Manager's Office. It was determined that Ms. Ernst's funds would be utilized to support the position and work on the CART Policies and Procedures to support the transition in the county. Since this time, Policies and Procedures have been in process. Ms. Ernst is confident that these will be completed before October 1, 2025.

On August 15, 2025, Ms. Ernst was notified of the funding award of the two NDOT / FTA grants for two years, starting October 1, 2025, for \$579,287 FTA, County Match \$191,971 for

operating, administration, maintenance, and capital purchases for each year for a second-year continuation.

Transition options for October 1, 2025

Concept 1:

Create a new stand-alone department - Direct County Manager and support staff to develop the department and hire a Manager or Director

- Staffing
 1. Manager / Director
 2. Two Dispatch / Office Specialists
 3. Five Transportation Specialists
 4. Two Casual Transportation Specialists
- Location
 1. FTA / NDOT Facility Grant Pending (since 2022) for rehabilitation of the Drumm Building
- Personnel Costs
 1. \$393,634 (with Manager, not Director)

Concept 2:

Combine CART with Churchill County Social Services, Aging, and Disabilities Services - located at the WNP Life Center

Phase 1: Effective October 1, 2025:

- Staffing: Hire current staff as part-time casual employees
 1. Manager
 2. Two Dispatchers
 3. Three Drivers

Within 60 days, we will present to the Board of County Commissioners the full integration of CART to Social Services for January 1, 2026, or sooner, with the operational plan defined.

Phase 2: Effective January 1, 2026, or sooner:

- Implementation dispatch for MOW/CART, updated job descriptions.
- Cross-train for MOW/CART Transportation Specialist: decreasing number of part-time positions for full-time, reduced cost on benefits, and a reduction of staffing costs by \$20,000 annually from standalone operations. Updated job descriptions.
- Implementation of Resource Liaison Services with Aging and Disabilities Services Assessments.

FISCAL IMPACT: Option 1: \$393,634.70 with Manager.

Option 2: Reduction of operating costs by \$20,000 to a combined budget of CART and Life Center.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: Option 1: Unknown costs for operations at 100% due to the facility location and structure not being completely known.

Option 2: Phase 1 only casual part-time positions to support current operations at reduced costs. Phase 2: combine operations and cross-train staff to support the overall needs of CART and MOW for reduction in costs, converting from ten part-time positions to 6 full-time positions. Increase outcomes of hiring based on full-time benefits, increase infrastructure and resources to support services for the aging and disabled.

FUNDING SOURCE: Option 1:

NDOT / FTA

ADSD

County - Social Services indigent fund

City: in-kind match

Donations

Fees for service

Option 2:

Option 1:

NDOT / FTA

ADSD

County - Social Services indigent fund

Senior Tax Assessment

City: In-kind match

Donations

Fees for service

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

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

Commissioner Hyde said I like Concept 2, and I know it will be time, but that is where we need to get to. I believe if we went with Concept 1, we'd be fighting to get to Concept 2 down the road, so I would just like to start there.

Commissioner Blakey asked if we gave you the resources that you need for Concept 2 to make the transition in a comfortable time, is that achievable? Ms. Ernst said it is. I just ask for the time and to be able to have that casual staff, because, I will be honest, we are a little full at this moment, so I want to make it clean. I do not want it to feel rushed and make everything where my operations at the Life Center are more burdened. Does that make sense? I don't want to break something that's working. Commissioner Blakey said I feel like we're going to incur a lot more cost if we go with Concept 1 over time, and if can implement it into your program and make it work and even if down the road, we have to get two or three more people, I think it would be more cost effective that way. Ms. Ernst said to be honest, I've looked at every possible way to try to support you going with Concept 1 and I cannot find one, but I wanted to provide it for you. Chair Getto said I think we are in agreeance for Concept 2 for CART.

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

**Commissioner Eric Blakey made a motion to approve Concept 2 as presented.
Commissioner Matt Hyde 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: Notification of referral for Guardianship on behalf of Protected Person 25-10DC-0789, received August 18, 2025, which was found to be a Washoe County case on August 20, 2025.

Notification of a Guardianship referral that was received on August 12, 2025, per NRS 159, which was investigated and found to be a case for Washoe County on August 20, 2025.

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 Matt Hyde made a motion to approve the Agenda Items as presented.
Commissioner Eric Blakey 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 had nothing to report.

Commissioner Hyde had nothing to report.

Commissioner Blakey reported on the following items:

- I attended a Rural Residency Steering Committee meeting at Banner, and they got awarded the grants they needed to move forward with the Residency Program here in Churchill County, which is awesome. There is a celebration of National Rural Health Day 2025 on the third Thursday in November, and our own Dr. Tedd McDonald will be receiving the 2025 Community Star Award. I thank him for his service to our community, and it will be a good event. I think you can get tickets on Event Bright for that. I attended a Museum meeting and CAPS is having their Spaghetti Feed this Saturday at the Convention Center. That's all I have.

County Manager Spross had nothing to report.

Comptroller Wideman had nothing to report.

Chief Civil Deputy DA Sanford had nothing to report.

Clerk/Treasurer Rothery reported on the following items:

- We have been busy in our office and we're still short-handed, but the gals that are in there, I'll say, are just doing awesome, they really are, and I really appreciate them. I just want to make you guys aware of that.

Sheriff Hickox was not present.

DA Mallory reported on the following items:

- The Civil Division has moved locations, and we are in the process of decorating it and we are still working on that. but the place is more functional, and we appreciate that. We think we will have room for everyone as it is, it is just a matter of getting it organized and spruced up, so, thank you.

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 but there was none.

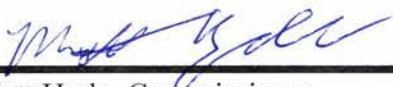
Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 AM.

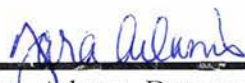
Approved:


Myles Getto, Chairman

Approved: 
Eric Blakey, Vice-Chairman

Approved: 
Matt Hyde, Commissioner

ATTEST:
Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer


Tara Adams, Deputy Clerk