

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF CHURCHILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406
March 18, 2026

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was called to order at 8:15 AM on March 18, 2026.

PRESENT: Commissioner Myles Getto
Commissioner Eric Blakey
Commissioner Matt Hyde
County Manager Chris Spross
Comptroller Sherry Wideman
Chief Civil Deputy District Attorney Wade Carner
Clerk/Treasurer Linda Rothery
Deputy Clerk Tara Adams

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 Tara Adams, Deputy Clerk, that the Agenda for this meeting was posted on the 12th day of March, 2026 between the hours of 12:00 and 5:00 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 Matt Hyde made a motion to approve the Agenda as submitted.

Commissioner Eric Blakey seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Appointments:

A. 1:15 PM Presentation of Employee Service Awards for the 1st Quarter of 2026.

Employees receiving service awards during the 1st Quarter of 2026 are:

Employee	Department	Years of Service
Jorge Guerrero	Community Activities/ Parks & Recreation	25
Brenda Mahan	District Attorney	20
Benjamin Trotter	Justice Court	15
Amy Lawry	Recorder's Office	15
Michael Hardin	Sheriff's Office	15
Christopher Burton	Sheriff's Office	10
Trevor Fullham	Juvenile Detention	5
Jason Santiago	Sheriff's Office	5

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

County Manager Chris Spross presented this item as outlined above.

B. Consideration and possible action re: Approval of an Interstate Interlocal Contract between the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, and the Tenth Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada, in and for Churchill County, for the provision of a Child Support Judicial Officer for the Child Support Enforcement Program.

Historically, the Tenth Judicial District Court has entered into an Interstate Interlocal Contract with the State of Nevada to provide for a Child Support Judicial Officer for the Child Support Enforcement Program. This Contract provides assistance with child support hearings and the State of Nevada provides the financial support for these services.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: State of Nevada.

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Tiffany Josephs, District Court Administrator, presented this item as outlined above.

Commissioner Eric Blakey made a motion to approve the Interstate Interlocal Contract between the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, and the Tenth Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada, in and for Churchill County, for the provision of a Child Support Judicial Officer for the Child Support Enforcement Program. Commissioner Matt Hyde seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Letters Received:

A. Bureau of Land Management's notification of the draft Environmental Impact Statement and issued a Record of Decision and an Amendment to the Plan of Operations approval for the Silver Peak Lithium Operation Project.

The Bureau of Land Management provides notification of the Final Environmental Impact Statement, Record of Decision, and Amendment to the Plan of Operations approval for the Silver Peak Lithium Operation Project. Albemarle U.S., Inc. submitted an amendment to their authorized Plan of Operations to the BLM under the Mining Law of 1872 and the regulations found at 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 3809 that the BLM is required to respond to. The proposed amendment to the plan reconciles existing disturbance not previously authorized and would authorize the expansion of lithium brine extraction operation facilities (Project). The reconciliation disturbance is comprised of 168 acres of private land and 770 acres of public lands administered by the BLM, and the expansion disturbance would be comprised of 375 acres of private land and 283 acres of public lands administered by the BLM.

In conjunction with the Final Environmental Impact Statement, the Bureau of Land Management is simultaneously issuing the Record of Decision notifying that the responsible official has certified that the bureau has considered all relevant information raised in the Final Environmental Impact Statement through the NEPA process, and the NEPA process has closed. The Final Environmental Impact Statement, Record of Decision, and Amendment to the Plan is available for review on the BLM NEPA register at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning/project/2035664/510>.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

B- Nevada Department of Transportation's notification about public meetings regarding the State Route 361 Realignment Project.

The Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) provides an invitation for review and comment on the Environmental Assessment to realign SR 361 and to participate in a public hearing on the project's purpose and need, goals, environmental impacts, proposed mitigation, and the Preferred Alternative to be constructed. This public hearing will take place online and in person.

In response to the U.S. Department of the Navy's Fallon Range Training Complex Modernization expansion, SR 361 needs to be relocated to the east of the newly expanded training range. NDOT, in cooperation with its federal partners, will be responsible for the realignment of the SR 361 roadway.

The in-person presentation will be held on March 31, 2026 at 511 E. Avenue in Gabbs, Nevada, between the hours of 4:30 PM. and 7:30 PM, with a presentation at 6:00 PM, or online through livestream via the NDOT Facebook page, @NevadaDOT. The public hearing will be available at www.NDOTSR361.com March 16 through April 17, 2026.

Public comments may be submitted via the website at: www.NDOTSR361.com, at the in-person meeting, or to the project manager.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

Old Business:

A. Consideration and possible action re: Update and recommendations regarding the FY27 Churchill County Budget.

The Churchill County Budget for FY 27 is under consideration by the Board. This is a standing item for the Board of County Commissioners to provide input and direction to staff in preparing the FY27 budget.

FISCAL IMPACT:

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

FUNDING SOURCE:

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Sherry Wideman, Comptroller, said I updated the Budget. Here are some hard copies if you need another one, I don't know if you brought the old one. Just the one that was attached to the agenda. We added a couple of positions last time. The total that we are increasing from the prior year for the additions for the wish list items is 2.7 million dollars. We've been looking at revenue, and I guess if you have any changes or any questions?

Chair Getto said is there any edits or changes anyone wants to make? Commissioner Blakey said I've reviewed the budget and I've provided my thoughts to the County Manager. We are still assessing those to see if we want to take away or add to on certain things. It is still a work in progress.

Sherry Wideman, Comptroller, said just a little side bar here. We have our workshop for this, where we are going to approve the final budget on April 2nd. Just to make you aware, that is when we will be bringing it to you. We don't have the job study yet; we put one million dollars in this budget for the job study. You can see that outlined there, but we don't have it down to the departmental level yet because it is still a work in progress, as you know. That's all I have.

B- Consideration and possible action re: Update on the Churchill County Compensation Study.

Update on the current status of the Churchill County compensation study.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$400,000-1.8 million with a blended pers rate

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: Based on the implementation plan chosen by the board.

FUNDING SOURCE:

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Joe Sanford, Assistant County Manager/HR Director, said it should be a relatively short update today. About last week, we provided a template to provide feedback to all of the departments. Almost every department responded and gave feedback on each of their positions. It's all been communicated to Baker Tilly. They have started to implement some of those changes and reviews based off of the feedback we've given at the meeting as well as this new feedback. They're still working on that. They are planning to come out here on April 1st for in-person meetings with all of the departments. Once they have confirmed their travel plans, we'll send out a meeting schedule for everyone to attend. I'm happy to answer any questions if you have any.

County Manager Spross asked when Baker Tilly comes out in April, are they going to have an opportunity to meet with the Commissioners one on one as well? Joe Sanford said they will, yes. I believe the feedback I've been getting is that the Commissioners would prefer to meet towards the end of the day. So, we'll reserve 30 minutes for each of you to meet individually with Baker Tilly.

C- Consideration and possible action re: Request for additional funding for the New Pass House and Day Center Project, in the amount of \$90,000.00, for the necessary improvements required to complete the project.

The New Pass House and Day Center Project was awarded to PEC Contracting and Engineering for \$764,442.92. The BOCC approved an additional \$100,000.00 as a contingency for any additional work during construction. There was an unforeseen structural issue found in unit 280 that had to be addressed. This was an additional \$18,540. Another issue that needed to be addressed was to make the kitchens in 280, 282, and 292 ADA compliant. We looked into modifying the existing cabinets, plumbing, and repair, and it was more cost-effective to remove the existing cabinets and counter tops and replace them with new cabinets and appliances. Along with new cabinets and countertops, new plumbing fixtures and appliances needed to be purchased and installed. The last large change was to install 17 new data ports throughout the buildings. This increase is an additional \$30,844.00. See the attached change order log attached to the agenda item.

With these three large change orders, there is not enough funding to install the security system (\$19,724.02), install the Internet to each building (\$1,000), and purchase furnishings for each unit (\$30,000.00).

FISCAL IMPACT: \$90,000.00

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: Additional funding to complete the project

FUNDING SOURCE: TBD

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Randy Hines, Public Works, Planning, and Building Director, presented this item as outlined above.

Commissioner Hyde asked with these change orders, and I am going to make it clear I hate change orders. I mean, it's just always, we get change-ordered to death. Does this put us right about 25% of the project on change orders contingency total? Randy Hines said probably 15%, the total is going to be a little close to one million and we are at \$150,000.00 in change orders. County Manager Spross said it would be \$190,00.00 right? Because you have \$100,000.00? Randy Hines said we are \$150,000.00 in change orders because we always knew we would have the PacState stuff to do and we always knew we would have furnishings to do. We were hoping to encompass that in the \$100,000.00 change order, or capture that in there. For the contract for the construction, it's about \$150,000.00, so 15%.

Commissioner Hyde said from my point of view, I would just recommend not coming back with any more change orders. Randy Hines said correct, we met with the contractor last week and we talked about everything else that we have. Again, most of the construction is done. Now, we just have to paint, put carpet in and all of that stuff. You don't know what you don't know until you open things up. Unfortunately, we open things up and find things we need to fix. We had some add-ons, with the data stuff. We are at 99%, we've gone through everything

for the rest of the work on there. That's why we have that additional \$10,000.00 for the change order three for that work. I did want to note before you mis-say something, we should have a credit back on the electrical. The contractors installing the wire, for all the cameras and the access points, they did have in their contract to install the cameras and the access points themselves. The switches and the programming, that has been moved over to PacState. There should be a credit in there, we just have not received that credit yet. Commissioner Blakey said ok, and PacState, we approved that contract a couple of meetings ago and that was for cameras and alarm. It has nothing to do with the data, or did it? Randy Hines said no data, it's more to get the cameras on the access points and the programming.

Commissioner Blakey said I agree with Commissioner Hyde on his comments. Talking about the change order, there's some of them that probably could have been figured out sooner I guess. On the data, help me understand the data. It's a large number, and what are we trying to accomplish there? Randy Hines said what we are trying to accomplish is having a hard data and hard wire location in each of the units. We have one in each of the units and each of the rooms, there's approximately nine or ten total units within all the units. Commissioner Blakey said when you are talking about a unit, you're talking like an apartment? One apartment is in a unit? Randy Hines said correct, then we've got the day center. We've got offices in there, so we want to have data locations in there. Then I think we added one or two in the manager's suite as well. I will follow up with that, we've also included wi-fi into each one of the units. There's a centrally located wi-fi hub in each unit as well. That was in the change. Commissioner Blakey said I'd like to see if we can maybe reduce that number and put one hard-line connection in each unit, and appropriate ones in the office space. One hard-line connection in the manager's and see if that number comes down. I don't think we need a hard-line connection in every bedroom. That's just a thing of the past. That's what I'd like to see, to see if that number could come down to \$15,000.00 or \$20,000.00. I'd like to still maybe approve this today, knowing that once you get those new numbers, that number would come down. Myles Getto said that sounds good to me. Matt Hyde said I agree. Most of the time a wi-fi router goes a long way. Randy Hines said we have a meeting today, so we are going to go over this stuff. Shannon will be back tomorrow, so we can discuss that with her as well. County Manager Spross said just one comment for clarification, I think Randy put this number together so that he doesn't have to come back in front of this Board. I believe there is probably a little bit of cushion in there. It was always the understanding that we're only going to spend what we're going to spend. He is going to try to value-engineer this thing down so it hopefully won't be that \$90,000.00. It is just a bit of a cushion to make sure he doesn't have to come back. Commissioner Blakey said I would like to comment on that, when you get done and you get all your reductions and you get the work done, I'd like to see the final numbers of what we actually ended up paying. That can come however you want to send it. Commissioners Hyde and Getto agreed.

Commissioner Matt Hyde made a motion to approve the additional funding of \$90,000.00 to complete the project. Commissioner Eric Blakey seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

New Business:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Resolution 4-2026, Resolution Authorizing an Election to Impose an Additional Levy of Taxes Ad Valorem for the Purpose of Providing Funding for the Purchase of Major Fire Equipment and Apparatus, including approval of the question language to be presented to the voters.

Churchill County currently imposes a 3-cent tax to fund the purchase of major pieces of fire equipment and apparatus. This tax was originally approved by the voters in 2008, again in 2014, and again in 2020. This tax is due to expire June 30, 2027. In order to extend the tax, the board will need to receive voter approval at the upcoming November election.

This tax is authorized pursuant to NRS 354.5982 if the matter is proposed to the registered voters specifying the amount of money to be derived, the purpose for which it is to be expended, the duration of the levy, and the proposal is approved by a majority of voters on the question. The attached resolution provides the required information under NRS 354.5982.

Nevada law also requires that a ballot question include arguments for and against the proposed question. The law requires the County Clerk to organize committees to write these arguments. The Churchill County Clerk sought interested people to serve on those committees but no person responded. Under that situation, the law requires the County Clerk, in consultation with the District Attorney, to prepare those arguments. Therefore, the County Clerk with the District Attorney's Office prepared the arguments for and against the proposed question.

The Fire Board unanimously approved a plan to place a ballot question in the November 2026 general election seeking community support to purchase fire equipment for the volunteer-based Fallon Churchill Fire Department at their March 10, 2026 meeting. The proposed ballot question language was unanimously approved by the Fire Board. The FCFD will support the ballot's passage with the voters.

Fire Chief, Jared Dooley, and other members of the FCFD will be present to provide information as to the prior use of these funds and what needs will be met in the future. The fire department will explain the fire equipment that needs replacing and the need for this dedicated funding. The FCFD will advocate for the ballot passage in the community and continue to build community support for this effort. The FCFD will be outlining their needs and would respectfully request this board's permission to place a question on the general election ballot to seek community support for the purchase of fire equipment.

FISCAL IMPACT: If approved by the voters, the residents will see no change in their property taxes related to the fire department funding as the tax would continue at the existing rate. The estimated amount of taxes on a \$100,000.00 house would be \$10.50 per year the tax is in place.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: NA

FUNDING SOURCE: NA

ACTION REQUESTED: Adopt

Senior Deputy District Attorney Chelsea Sanford said I am here on behalf of the Churchill County District Attorney's Office to help with the legal aspects of Resolution 4-2026, which is the Ad Valorem Tax. With me today, I have some wonderful individuals from the Fire Board.

The following individuals introduced themselves: Eric Fain, President of the Fallon Churchill Fire Department Organization. Randy Sharp, First Assistant Fire Chief Fallon Fire Department. Jared Dooley, Fire Chief Churchill County Fire Department.

Deputy District Attorney Sanford presented this item as outlined above.

Jared Dooley, Fire Chief CC Fire Dept., said obviously, all of the good information is in the proposed sample ballot questions for the voters to read. There is good information in there. The resolution has some information that people can consider as well. I am here this morning to let people know what we've done with it in the past and some needs that we'll have in the future. I prepared a couple of short remarks. Thank you Commissioners for allowing me to speak this morning.

I have been asked to comment on an initiative to extend the Ad Valorem tax on properties located in Churchill County. That's used to support the Fire Department. As some of you may know, the Fire Department has been the recipient of this additional Tax Levy over the past six years, and it was voted on by the residents. These funds are set aside specifically for our department and the acquisition of major pieces of fire equipment and apparatus. These funds can only be used by the Fire Department, and they can only be used for major pieces of equipment. Historically, we've used these funds for many large projects that are critical in maintaining the Fire Department.

We've re-plumbed two trucks and two engines at a cost of about \$308,000.00. We have done electrical upgrades to those trucks that are about 30 years old now that cost about \$75,000.00. We purchased 132 carbon fiber SCBA tanks, which was a cost of about \$120,000.00. We purchased the response vehicle for the duty officer that was \$87,000.00. We were able to purchase and outfit two type six fire trucks, which are the smaller type fire trucks that we use in brush fires all over Churchill County. The cost of that was about \$142,000.00. We've upgraded our radio system from a wide-band system to a narrow-band system for \$57,000.00. The one that most people are familiar with, the most recent purchase, was the two engines that we just purchased a couple of years ago. They were just over a million dollars apiece. The last draw out of the 525 account, or the account that encompasses all of those funds, was \$2,126,441.00 and for that money we got two of the best fire engines you can buy. These funds are used to great effect.

The purpose of mentioning our previous purchases is twofold. I would like to assure the taxpayers that the funds entrusted to the fire department are used responsibly and to great effect. I would also suggest that they illustrate the point perfectly, that the Fire Department has continuing needs to maintain its current state of readiness. Since the last time this initiative was voted on, our volumes for calls have increased from approximately 400 calls per year 6 years ago, and we are well over 500 calls for service per year now. Our member numbers are increasing, the cost of everything is increasing, and that includes fire trucks. As we look to the immediate future of the Fire Department, of our needs here in Churchill County, I can see these funds being used within the next five to ten years to replace fire trucks that are currently over

thirty years old. We've looked into approximate costs of these two trucks that we're looking to replace and the last time we looked, which was a little over a year ago, that will be about 1.8 million apiece. They are really specialized pieces of equipment; they are kind of one-off builds with the way that we do our fire trucks. A lot of the funds that we would accrue in this account over the next six years would be used to buy fire trucks.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to the taxpayers of Churchill County for your continued support of the Fire Department. This tax revenue helps the Fire Department immensely. I would ask the Commission to move forward with placing this tax levy before the voters.

Commissioner Blakey said I have personally seen the effect of what this tax does over a period. It is definitely enhanced our community to keep us within budget and to provide service to every citizen in a unique way. Thank you for being good stewards of this account. Thank you for always having the utmost perfect equipment to do your job and especially the morale of the Fire Department to always be there when we call. No other community in this nation has the same Fire Department that we do. With that, I would definitely support this measure. Chair Getto said that was very well said. Commissioner Matt Hyde said I would adopt the comments of Commissioner Blakey. We appreciate it, and it's a good value to this community.

Commissioner Eric Blakey made a motion to adopt Resolution R-4-2026 as presented. Commissioner Matt Hyde seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B- Consideration and possible action re: Renewal of Professional Services Contracts with Charles B. Woodman, Esq., in the amount of \$96,000 for FY27, \$105,600 in FY28, and \$116,160 in FY29 for Indigent Legal Services and in the amount of \$48,000 for FY27, \$52,800 for FY28, and \$58,080 for FY29 for Representation of Individuals in NRS 432B, Juvenile Temporary Protection Order Cases and Guardianship Cases, effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, with the option to renew for two additional one-year terms at the payment and on the same terms and conditions as set forth herein.

Prior to the establishment of the Churchill County Public Defender's Office on November 2020, the county's indigent defense was being provided via contracted attorneys. Charles B.

Woodman, Esq. has been providing indigent defense services to the county since July 1, 2014. In November 2020, once the county's Public Defender's Office was established, Mr. Woodman still had his existing caseload and was handling conflicts as assigned, but began billing the county on a percentage basis corresponding to the percentage of cases he was handling when compared to the average number of cases/hearings he had under his indigent defense contract with the county.

Since Mr. Woodman had an existing caseload and was working for the county providing indigent defense services for many years, he was a good fit to continue providing conflict counsel services. Furthermore, Mr. Woodman was approved by the State of Nevada Department of Indigent Defense Services as Qualified Contractor and Appointed Counsel. Thus, the Board of Churchill County Commissioners entered into a one-year contract with Mr. Woodman, effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. At the same time, the board also approved a secondary one-year contract for Representation of Individuals in NRS 432B, Juvenile TPO, and

Guardianship Cases. This contract is similar to other contracts the county has for 432B representation. The contractor will represent individuals as appointed by the Tenth Judicial District Court and includes but is not limited to: 72-hour hearings, initial hearings, disposition hearings, review hearings, mediation, termination of parental rights hearings, and any appeals. The Indigent Legal Services contract also allows for \$180/hr for FY27, \$198/hour for FY28, and \$218/hour for FY29 for time spent preparing for and attending settlement conferences as required by the court, as well as jury trials, and reimbursement for extraordinary investigative costs, expert witness fees, or other necessary services as approved by the County's Appointed Counsel Program Administrator. The NRS 432B, Juvenile TPO, and Guardianship Cases contract also allows for \$180/hr for FY27, \$198/hour for FY28, and \$218/hour for FY29 for time spent on second more contested evidentiary hearings, fourth or more mediation, or any contested hearings for termination of parental rights. Both contracts contained provisions allowing for up to three (3) one-year renewals.

As referenced in the county's Indigent Defense Plan, it was determined that the best way to provide effective representation of indigent defendants was to split the Public Defender's Office into two separate offices with a Public Defender's Office and an Alternate Public Defender's Office, which would lessen the occurrence of having to use the Department of Indigent Defense Services (DIDS) for conflict cases. Additionally, as outlined in the Plan, any conflicts that arise in which both offices are unable to represent an individual, the case would be referred to the county's contract attorney or the Program Coordinator (Sevon Consulting, LLC) for appointment of counsel.

The contract for Indigent Legal Services is at an annual rate of \$96,000 and is being proposed to renew July 1, 2026 and run through June 30, 2027. The option to renew for two additional one-year terms at \$105,600 in FY28, and \$116,160 in FY29 is included in the terms of the contract. The contract for Representation of Individuals in NRS 432B, Juvenile TPO, and Guardianship Cases is at an annual rate of \$48,000 and is also being proposed to renew July 1, 2026 and run through June 30, 2027. This contract also includes the option to renew for two additional one-year terms at \$52,800 for FY28, and \$58,080 for FY29. Mr. Woodman had been at the same base rate of pay since 2022 and is requesting an increase to his annual rate for the new contracts of 20% for FY27 and 10% for each for both FY28 and FY29. The contract cost for Indigent Legal Services is a part of the county's indigent defense expenditures for FY27 and counts toward reaching our base amount. Upon exceeding our indigent defense baseline, the county is eligible to seek reimbursement through DIDS. This is also why the contract for Indigent Legal Services is separate from the contract for NRS 432B, Juvenile TPO, and Guardianship Cases, since those services do not count toward indigent defense expenditures. FISCAL IMPACT: FY27: $\$96,000 + \$48,000 = \$144,000$ paid out in monthly installments. For FY27 the Indigent Legal Services contract also allows \$180/hour for the services described above, which are not considered covered by the annual rate. The expenses for the Indigent Legal Services contract count toward the county's baseline, and once exceeded, the county is eligible for reimbursement through DIDS.

Similarly, for FY27 the contract for 432B, Juvenile TPO, and Guardianship Cases contract also allows \$180/hr for the services as described above, which are not considered covered by the

annual rate. This contract also allows for reimbursement of extraordinary investigative costs, expert witness fees, or other necessary services ordered by a Court, pursuant to NRS 7.135.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: Since the county was already expending funds on these services and it was anticipated during budget development that the need for conflict counsel would continue, there were funds budgeted within the Indigent Defense Budget for FY27.

FUNDING SOURCE: Indigent Defense Budget: 100-248

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Alexa Robinson, Executive Secretary, County Manager's office, presented this item as outlined above.

Commissioner Hyde said when I read this contract, it has an hourly rate. So, we are going by the hourly rate? Ms. Robinson said it is an hourly rate, with a “not-to-exceed”. Commissioner Blakey said he is just the attorney for when it is a double conflict, correct? If Jacob can’t do it, and Wright can’t do it then that is when he gets called in? Ms. Robinson said yes, he is more for complicated cases or if somebody can’t handle it, or if there is nobody available. He gets called in for that.

Comptroller Wideman said just so you guys know, we have not received any funds this year from DIDS (Department of Indigent Defense Services), they have not given us the funds from 2025 for the true-up because they say they’re short-staffed. Also, this contract is just paid per amount, it is a flat rate that we pay. Ms. Robinson said Sue Savon is the one who does that on our behalf. She submits to the state, she is really good about submitting everything to make sure that we hit that cap. The State is dragging their feet, and I don’t know what the hold-up is. I have gotten emails saying we promise we have the funds, we promise the funds are coming, but again we have not seen them yet.

Commissioner Matt Hyde made a motion to renew Professional Services Contracts with Charles B. Woodman, Esq., in the amount of \$96,000 for FY27, \$105,600 in FY28, and \$116,160 in FY29 for Indigent Legal Services and in the amount of \$48,000 for FY27, \$52,800 for FY28, and \$58,080 for FY29 for Representation of Individuals in NRS 432B, Juvenile Temporary Protection Order Cases and Guardianship Cases, effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, with the option to renew for two additional one-year terms at the payment and on the same terms and conditions as set forth herein. Commissioner Eric Blakey seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C- Consideration and possible action re: Approval of immediate recruitment of a Social Services Director, revisions to the Social Services Director job description, duties, and compensation, and payment of a \$2,000.00 monthly stipend to Shannon Ernst to provide continued services on an interim basis for a period of 60 days.

Shannon Ernst has submitted her resignation as the Social Services Director to take on the position of the Central Nevada Health District Administrator. Filling her position will require someone with dedication to the community and to the people of Churchill County. Staff has

provided a revised job description in line with the current duties of the director and requests authority to begin immediate recruitment. Staff requests input from the Board on the terms of the recruitment, specifically related to the salary range to post during the recruitment of the position.

Ms. Ernst has agreed to provide services to the County as an interim director for Churchill County Social Services for a stipend of \$2,000.00 monthly. She has been providing this function to CNHD for several months, and staff believes this would allow for the transfer of critical knowledge to a new director or to current employees to ease the transition.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$2,000 monthly stipend. Savings of salary until a new director is identified.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

FUNDING SOURCE: General Fund.

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Joe Sanford, Assistant County Manager/HR Director presented this item as outlined above.

Mr. Sanford continued and said we have revised the job description to ensure that it includes the CART program, the Life Center, and all of the other changes that currently exist. We are at a unique point where we would like to recruit for this position but we understand we are in the middle of a compensation study. I would like to give you some numbers about what is currently, the Social Services Director Position, what is looking to be at the current recommendation from Baker Tilly as well as your potential options. We can consider how you would like us to recruit for this position. Obviously, if we recruit for the position at its current rate, it is a Grade 77 on our current scale which ranges from a \$104,000.00 to \$140,000.00 from Step 1 to Step 13. The current study from Baker Tilly places the Social Services Director position at a grade 24, that would be a range of \$115,000.00 to \$155,000.00. The majority of our Director positions under the Baker Tilly study have been set at grade 25. That would be Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Road Superintendent, Community Activities Director, etc. Those have all been set at 25, that range would be \$122,000.00 to \$164,000.00. This is a unique position where you are attempting to recruit for a position when you have this compensation study ongoing. It has not been adopted for any person. If we say we want to recruit at a particular number, it somewhat locks us in for this position at least to that number. I'd like to get some input from the Board on how you would like to recruit for it. The recommendation I would have for our Director level positions, we have typically tried to keep those on one level for the majority of our Directors. A second level would be for say the Museum and Library Directors and the Court Services Director. Then we have another level above that for the Comptroller, Chief Legal Officer, etc. Given that information, the recruitment I would recommend that we do at least the recommendation of a grade 24, and potentially a grade 25 if that is the intent of the Board to harmonize those as we have before. So that we can recruit a candidate that matches what we are likely to pay, as well as what is expected of that position. If we recruit at the current rate, we absolutely can do that, but it will be posted at the \$104,000.00 to \$140,000.00. If you want to stay there, I would like some guidance about how we would potentially do negotiations. It can be very difficult. If we potentially recruit someone and say we can do step 1, which is \$104,000.00, and otherwise we will need to go to the Board. Even if

we were to ask for a substantial advanced placement. I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Then I will address the \$2,000.00 monthly stipend. Shannon has agreed to assist us for the next 60 days on a stipend basis of \$2,000.00. That is currently how she does the Central Nevada Health District and has for the past 8 months or so, as a \$2,000.00 stipend to do work for them. This would be the reverse situation, where she would be primarily employed as the administrator and then assisting as a Social Services Director while we try to recruit someone new. Then transferring any knowledge that she has if we can get someone in time.

Chair Getto asked if there were any questions or comments from the board or staff? Which way do we want to take this? Commissioner Hyde said it's just the way I feel about it, with this compensation study, they have a lot of information to put this at a grade 24. I would suggest we put it at a grade 24. Chair Getto said I agree with you on that. Commissioner Blakey said I would say the compensation study is going to be done within the next 45 days. It is fair to say that right? Then we have Ms. Ernst's services until April 20th or May 20th, can we survive past that without someone? How crucial is it to have someone in place prior to May 20th full-time? County Manager Spross said after speaking to Ms. Ernst, finalizing the job description, seeing what's done there and seeing all the different facets of what that position is responsible for I feel it is imperative to have someone in place prior to Ms. Ernst leaving. Or at least doing our very best to get someone in place prior to her leaving. I think there is so much institutional knowledge there, that I think it would really harm the department if we did not have somebody there at this time.

Comptroller Wideman said if we are looking at the 60 days from a payroll standpoint, is it going to be like 2 months or 60 days? I mean they are talking about the middle of May. Are we breaking this down as a daily rate just for payroll? We normally pay like \$1,000.00 per pay period. You are talking May 20th, so we would need some clarification on that. Also, just for your FYI, on the job study done for Management and Director's we used to have a 12.5% between levels of Directors. Now there is a 6% between the various levels of management. Just so you are aware. Joe Sanford said my recommendation would be that we do the same thing that we are currently doing for the Central Nevada Health District. That was the understanding in communication. So, however we did that, we would do that on this side as well.

Chair Getto said just for clarification, Grade 24 was \$115,000.00 to \$155,000.00? Mr. Sanford said that is correct, \$115,325.00 to \$154,987.00. Commissioner Blakey said that is the one you are recommending? The projected acceptance of Baker Tilly's proposal at Grade 24? Mr. Sanford said that is the current recommendation, yes. Commissioner Blakey said do we just need to state the dollar amount? I wanted to make sure it is defined from the existing pay structure to a different pay structure, so there's absolutely no confusion. That's why I wanted to go down that road. Mr. Sanford said I prefer the \$115,325.00 to \$154,987.00 because that is what I am actually going to post. Mr. Spross said my only concern would be if that were to change. Until we get through this 45 days, if it changes by \$100 here or \$100 there, now we've got another number that is part of that table that is not in alignment with what the table actually says. Unless you are confident that those numbers are not going to change, and by the smile on your face I can tell that maybe you just don't know. That would be my only reservation about putting a dollar range in there. Commissioner Blakey said ok, I got it. What's the bottom

number? Mr. Sanford said as a grade 24 the bottom number is \$115,325.00. Chair Getto asked do we want to attach a number to this or no? Commissioner Blakey said yes, we are going to attach parameters. Then if it doesn't fall within those parameters, they can come back once we get the Baker Tilly Study finished. Comptroller Wideman said what I was going to recommend is you get the grade and step that is closest to the chart right now, then it might change when the job study comes in. So that we have a grade we can actually put on our current table. The other table is not going to be in effect until July. We can't pay off of two tables. Commissioner Blakey said Mr. Sanford you feel confident that this position would be hired and filled prior to the new budget? Mr. Sanford said prior to July 1st, yes. Commissioner Blakey said I see your reasoning. Mr. Spross asked if he could make a suggestion. I understand what Sherry is saying and I think that makes a lot of sense. We do not have a new table, so we would have to use our old one and find the grade that is currently closest to the grade 24 of the new table. With the caveat that it is adjusted to the grade 24 when the new table gets adopted, or the closest dollar value to the table when it is adopted. I think you get my idea. Commissioner Blakey said I am going to say that we will hire with the low-end number and the high-end number to get closest to the existing grade pay scale that we have. Then if we have to come back when the Comp Study is done, is that sufficient? Mr. Sanford said for the record, that will be grade 81.

Commissioner Eric Blakey made a motion to approve the immediate recruitment of a Social Services Director, revise the job description for the Social Services Director, and setting compensation at Grade 81 of the current pay scale of Churchill County, and adjust to a comparable Grade on the new pay scale in FY 2026-2027, and provide a stipend of \$2,000.00 to Shannon Ernst to provide interim services as the Social Services Director for a period of 60 days. 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 354.290.

A Fund Balance Report is provided 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, Planning & Building Department's Revenue Reports for February 2026, showing a total for Public Works & Planning of \$116,670.38 and a total for Building of \$36,643.39 in revenue for the month.

The Public Works and Building Department submits the February 2026 revenue reports for the board's consideration and acceptance. Public Works and Planning reported total revenues of \$116,670.38 and a total for Building of \$36,643.39 in revenue for the month.

FISCAL IMPACT: Public Works Planning, \$116,670.38 Building, \$36,643.39.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: Fees are collected for the issuance of building permits, plan reviews, inspections, etc.

FUNDING SOURCE: General Fund.

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

C- Consideration and possible action re: Approval of the Building Permit Activity Report for February 2026.

Provided for the board's review is the report showing 42 Building issued in the month of February 2026. Included in the 42 permits are 2 single-family-dwelling permits, 8 commercial permits and 0 industrial permits. Additionally, 2 manufactured home permits and 2 septic permits were issued.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

D- Consideration and possible action re: Recorder's Monthly Apportionment Report for February 2026 totaling \$19,895.60 in revenue.

Churchill County Recorder, Tasha Hessey, provides her Recorder's Monthly Apportionment Report for February 2026 totaling \$19,895.60 in revenue for the month.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$19,895.60 in revenue.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: Fees to help off-set services provided.

FUNDING SOURCE: General Fund

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Commissioner Matt Hyde made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items as presented. Commissioner Eric Blakey seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Consider Future Agenda Items:

No one had any items they would like to consider.

Commissioner and Management Staff Reports:

Commissioner Hyde said he had nothing to report.

Commissioner Getto said I had a good IEC meeting with the Navy.

Commissioner Blakey said I attended a LEPC meeting getting ready for that, and a Fire Board Meeting at which we discussed what we presented earlier. I had a day visit from a representative from Congressman Amodei's office to show him around the County and show him why he needs to promote Churchill County everywhere he goes. At the Stillwater Conservation meeting, they were glad to see that we still had them in the budget. I attended the Library Volunteer Reception. I didn't know we had that many volunteers down there, so I want to do a shout out to the volunteers at the Library. They do a great job for this community. Then I had a Museum Board meeting, and that was enough.

Comptroller Wideman had nothing to report.

Civil District Attorney Wade Carner had nothing to report.

District attorney Art Malory had nothing to report.

County Manager Chris Spross said he had attended the IEC meeting with the Navy last week and there was a lot of interesting information that was shared, some surprising, some not.

Clerk/Treasurer Linda Rothery said Pam Moore retired, as you guys know. She is officially out of our office as of last Wednesday. I just want to say, please be patient since we are down. We crash trained Ms. Tara who is doing an amazing job. We will get back up, we may be asking for your forgiveness on the minutes as we go forward until we can get that position filled.

Candidate filing ended Friday. I would like to say congratulations to everybody in the local offices, there was no opposition for Churchill County. That closed down Friday, and I am glad everybody did file. I attended a GIOA Conference, which is the Government Investment Officers Association, in Vegas this last week. I learned a lot on investments on top of what our future is. This was a good Conference.

Deputy Clerk Adams had nothing to report.

Recorder Tasha Hessey said that the Recorder's Office had 29 single families file in February with an average price of \$352,000.00.

Assessor Denise Mondhink-Felton said Tax Cap Claim Forms went out in the mail. If you did not get one, you can also fill one out online.

Sheriff Richard Hickox went back and reviewed his budget per the Commissioner's recommendation on February 20, 2026. Commissioner Hyde and Commissioner Blakey asked me to review the Budget that I had turned in and to see if I could eliminate \$100,000.00 from that Budget and wages. The answer to that is yes. I sent you each messages, but I wanted to go on record today and advise you we were able to pull it out of the Overtime Budget. Since you guys had asked us to go back and look at it, I am trying to be transparent and fair. We removed that, so you guys have that to play with on your end. Thank you for the questions and thank you for the input during the Budget process. It was refreshing, and I appreciated it very much. Thank you.

Commissioner Hyde said thank you very much for doing that, and pulling that out of the Overtime Budget that does not mean for me that if there is an emergency we won't figure out a way to come up with that. I appreciate that Sheriff, thank you very much. If anybody else wants to sharpen their pencil, we will welcome it.

Sherry Wideman said we did not increase Overtime at all in the Budget. That was not approved in the Budget, just so you know. It still has a Budget, but if you look on the sheet that went out it was not part of that. Are you talking about reducing it from the current? Sheriff Hickox said I was asked to go and look at what we had put forward, and if I could remove \$100,000.00 from the proposed Budget that they were looking to approve during that meeting, if I am correct. We went back and looked at that Budget and said that we could remove \$100,000.00 from what we had requested to be able to align with what they needed and still serve the public. Comptroller Wideman said just for your information we did not include that in the approval.

Claims and Payroll Transmittals:

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

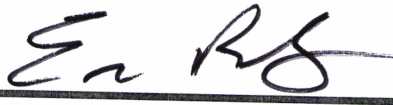
Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 AM.

Approved: _____


Myles Getto, Chairman

Approved: _____

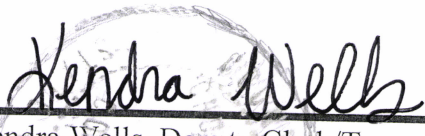

Eric Blakey, Vice-Chairman

Approved: _____


Matt Hyde, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer


Kendra Wells, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

