

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF CHURCHILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406

April 13, 2026

Call to Order:

This special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was called to Order at 11:00 AM on April 13, 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 extended the Churchill County Commissioner's condolences to the family of Sheriff Richard Hickox. He was a staple in our community and an asset to our County and all of Nevada. Chair Getto asked for a moment of silence regarding the passing of Sheriff Hickox. He then asked if there was any other 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 8th day of April, 2026 between 8:00 and 9:00 AM at all of the locations listed on the Agenda, in accordance with NRS 241.

Appointments:

4:30 PM A- Consideration and possible action re: Update and discussion on the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and possible input and direction from the Board of County Commissioners to the Comptroller regarding changes to departmental budget requests since the budget hearings held on February 19 and 20, 2026.

Comptroller Wideman will present updates on the proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and request input and direction from the Board of County Commissioners regarding changes to departmental budget requests since the budget hearings held on February 19 and 20, 2026.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Comptroller Wideman presented the following:

**Tentative Budget Workshop
Fiscal Year
July 2026- June 2027
4-13-2026**

Presented By Sherry Wideman, CPA
Churchill County Comptroller



What changed since last budget workshop?

**County Manager Departmental meetings as of
4/8/2026:**

Total Decrease: - \$481,609

Governmental Revenue vs Expense 2027

Tentative Revenue & Transfers:	\$ 52,289,870
Tentative Total Expense:	<u>-\$ 67,299,012</u>
Expending Fund Balance	<u>-\$ 15,009,142</u>
Capital Outlay	- \$ 12,921,000
Remaining noncapital deficit	- \$ 2,088,142
	<i>(Spending of fund balance)</i>

Tentative Budget Results Breakdown

- Minimum 2027 General Fund ending balance
\$1,150,000
- Resulting 2027 General Fund ending balance
(\$578,402)
- Budget Cut Required (\$1,728,402) For General
Fund
- Resulting 2027 Parks & Rec ending balance
(\$17,337)

County Manager Chris Spross commented that the 1.7 million dollars that you say we are still short, does that include the \$300,000.00 from CC Comm? Or not yet? Comptroller Wideman said no, not yet, because it is not in the Budget. Mr. Spross said you and I had a conversation about some potential money coming in from Geothermal. You had mentioned that the County itself only gets a small percentage of that. I am assuming that that money is not included in that yet either? Comptroller Wideman said that money is not included in that either. The General Fund would probably get approximately \$300,000.00 depending on when we receive it. Mr. Spross said for the 1.7 million, if we take that \$600,000.00 into account, we'd be looking for around another 1.1 million dollars to balance that budget should those come true. Is that correct? Comptroller Wideman said yes, but I would have to have the means in which to put them in. Mr. Spross said as Sherry said in one of her slides, we are still short 1.7 million dollars. Comptroller Wideman said let's put that slide back up so we can have the number in front of us please. Mr. Spross said the Budget Cut required says 1.728 million for the General Fund. If you take the \$300,000.00 off of that, which we are still anticipating from CC Comm. The reason that has not been included yet, is that can't be put in until CC Comm changes their budget to reflect that. Then we can change it in our Budget to reflect it. As I have mentioned, there was some money coming in from Geothermal Tax as far as an assessment. Unfortunately, the County only gets about 30% of that, the rest goes to the School District. We are anticipating that that will be another \$300,000.00. If you take that \$600,000.00 that has not been accounted for in here, that would mean that we would need another budget cut, that 1.7 million drops down to 1.1 million. Commissioner Getto said how do we want to address that we need to come up with the 1.1 million that we are looking at here?

Commissioner Blakey asked if Parks and Rec had a negative balance? What is that negative balance? Comptroller Wideman said \$17,337.00. Commissioner Blakey said in the County Manager's Office, can we discuss this with Parks and Rec and find that amount of money? Mr. Spross said Joe and myself will figure out what we need to do there. Commissioner Blakey said, ok, so there's \$17,000.00. Mr. Spross said that is a separate line item from the General Fund. The 1.7 million does not include that \$17,000.00, it still impacts the County. We have to turn that into a positive. It is a separate line item from the 1.7 million. Commissioner Blakey said I guess we need to get dialed in with everything that is existing. We will have to move on to some of the ask, and see if maybe they can take away some of the ask. What do you guys think? Chair Getto said I think that is our only option.

Commissioner Blakey said on the personnel request, is it feasible or possible to delay the hiring of new employees for a period of time to save some money? Does anybody have any thoughts there? Chair Getto said we could always get rid of that now, and it would be an agenda item on one of our normal scheduled Commission meetings to bring those positions back forward. Commissioner Blakey said you are saying to get rid of those positions completely? Chair Getto said whatever it takes to reach that 1.1 million and then after the new fiscal year, we can re-evaluate again. Things will change. Commissioner Blakey said I don't know if I wanted to take them away, I think I was just wanting to maybe delay the hiring. Chair Getto said I don't think we can delay them, I think you would have to completely remove them from the budget. Sherry, you might be able to speak better on that. I think you would have to remove them from the entire budget to get us to that 1.1 million. Then at a later date the next fiscal year, we can bring

them back to this board at one of the regular meetings. Those departments would come in and say I have this position, etc.... Comptroller Wideman said that is one option where we could see how we actually end up in the fiscal year. We might look better than projected as we go into 2027. We could take them completely off, or we could say that they start 6 months in and we would reduce them by half. Commissioner Blakey said so delay the hiring? Comptroller Wideman said yes. Chair Getto said so then delaying is an option for us? Comptroller Wideman said yes, we could do the delay, if that's what you want. Commissioner Hyde said I think if we can delay it, it would be harder to be deemed necessary. For them to have to come back and ask the Commission for them to be deemed necessary, it looks like the delay option is better. Chair Getto said one hundred percent, I just didn't know if that was an option to make those numbers crunch. Commissioner Blakey said what do you guys think about delaying them for one quarter, waiting until October 1st to be able to hire? Comptroller Wideman said if you look at your wish list here, under personnel, what we have to work with is the \$574,621.64. That is the actual cost of the positions because there is a million dollars sitting in there for the job study. If you were to delay them, let's say half a year, you are only getting \$250,000.00. A quarter would be less than that. Commissioner Blakey asked if \$125,000.00 is for 90 days? Comptroller Wideman said yes, we would need to start of a payroll type thing, but yes we would need to do a quarter. Commissioner Blakey said it takes a while to get some of those hired. They could do some of the work in the background. Commissioner Getto asked if that brings us to \$975,000.00? Comptroller Wideman said you wanted to reduce it by \$125,000.00? Commissioner Getto said for now, we will keep going through. Commissioner Blakey said that is all of the personnel requests? Commissioner Hyde said knowing that in those 3 months, it might be delayed again. Chair Getto said yes. With the Sheriff's office, for example, those are extremely hard positions to fill. They always have open positions. Those are challenges, it might be more than three months naturally or organically. Comptroller Wideman said they wouldn't be able to start hiring until three months. Then for the people who are getting promotions, they wouldn't get promoted for three months. County Manager Spross said when I met with the Sheriff's office, that was something that they had suggested they would be able to do on those three positions. Delay that hiring for a period of three months.

Assistant County Manager Joe Sanford said I just want some clarification for HR's direction. When you say delay by three months, would you like us to just put starting dates no earlier than October 1st? Or would you like us to delay the process until October 1st? My understanding would be a start date of October 1st, 2026, but I just wanted certainty before I commit to that. Comptroller Wideman said I was thinking the other way around, start advertising October 1st. County Manager Spross said I agree with what Joe is saying. The hard part about that is when you advertise 6 weeks before the start date and you find a candidate that is good, now you potentially have to delay them from starting. They may pack up and go somewhere else. If you say you can't start recruiting until that time that takes that away, but it is also a longer period of time that the department has to do without that position. Just food for thought. Commissioner Blakey said he was ok with doing everything in the background with a start date of October 1st. Chair Getto said that sounds good to me. Commissioner Blakey said we are already going to add some organic personnel savings anyway just because of people moving on. That leaves more money there. I guess we just need to go down this list? Chair Getto said yes, the request list.

Commissioner Blakey said remind me again of the vehicle repairs in CART? Comptroller Wideman said the vehicle repairs are billed to CART because they can bill it to the grant. Manager Spross said that's a good point Sherry. We just have to be careful about saying we are going to take this out because one, we could be revenue generating two, we could be covered by a grant or three, it could be both. We just want to make sure we are not cutting something that really has no impact on our budget because it is going to be reimbursed. Commissioner Blakey said for the furniture and fixtures for the District Attorney's office for \$4,000.00; Mr. Mallory can you do without that conference table for one more year? District Attorney Art Mallory said that is no problem. We could do without that for a year, is that ok Wade? Yeah, we are good. Chair Getto said to be completely honest with you, we are at \$970,000.00. We need to come up with supplemental requests totals of 1 million dollars. We will have to fine tooth this. Commissioner Blakey said if we can determine that we have done everything that we want to do, then take it from our savings in order to balance if we have to, this time around.

County Manager Chris Spross said Sherry I have a question, the \$35,000.00 for SERC and LEPC, under Emergency Management; that line item is not highlighted in yellow, but the total is highlighted in yellow. Is that \$35,000.00 approved or not approved? On the second page, right at the top. Comptroller Wideman said yes. Mr. Spross said that \$35,000.00 has been approved? Comptroller Wideman said only the \$13,000.00 that is in the pink column. Chair Getto said isn't that also reimbursable for Emergency Management? Comptroller Wideman said it is just our cost, we reduced it to the \$13,100.00 because that would be our cost.

County Manager Spross said can we suspend our TDR program for a year? Chair Getto said we were just talking about suspending the TDR program for this year, I really don't think that will be a detriment. Comptroller Wideman said that is not going to affect the general fund, that's in a different fund. It is more like a place saver. Cuts will need to come out of the general fund outline items. Chair Getto said is that \$200,000.00 contributing against the \$970,000.00? Comptroller Wideman said no it's not. Assistant County Manager Sanford asked Sherry if we would be able to re-direct funds that are currently going to that to the general fund? Comptroller Wideman said no, they are not getting that kind of revenue in there. Their revenue is from other sources. Commissioner Blakey said can it be re-directed to the general fund, yes or no? Comptroller Wideman said no it cannot be directed to the general fund. Commissioner Blakey said Joe, can you speak to any of the Parks and Rec stuff there? Below the Museum. Assistant County Manager Sanford said are you looking at the personnel set or the supplemental requests? The supplemental requests, ok. A lot of those are utilities. I know we went through most of this when we were going through to try and match actual expenditures. As for the supplemental requests that were optional, there was a tractor for about \$17,000.00. In the capital section that had been approved, obviously we could do without that for a year if we had to. Commissioner Blakey said but that doesn't affect the general fund. Manager Spross that would hit the Parks and Rec and help us with the \$17,000.00 that is over, but it wouldn't do anything for the general fund as far as whatever \$900,000.00 and some odd balance we have left to find correct? Mr. Sanford said not directly, that does receive some money that could be directed to the general fund. Ms. Wideman said that's correct, they get 1.1 million dollars in sales tax. Commissioner Blakey said I would like to try to find the \$17,000.00 somewhere else, because that's removing

the tractor. Just my opinion. That \$95,000.00 was taken out of the jail repairs, from the Sheriff's right? Mr. Sanford said it was taken out of the jail repairs from the Sheriff's budget and then we have increased some of the building budget in the custodial and grounds line item. Not to the full \$95,000.00 to compensate, but I think about \$25,000.00.

Mr. Spross said just for clarification, we talked about the 1.1 million dollars and now we are down to \$975,000.00 or something like that. We still don't know if that is an accurate number at this point, because we haven't finalized our compensation study. We haven't finalized our health insurance impact. That could go up or down. Ms. Wideman said we might have opportunities between now and the final budget to get this dialed in so we can submit it without negative balances. Then we can do some adjusting for the final. Mr. Spross said if we get this down to the \$975,000.00, the balance of that would then have to be picked up from reserves to cover that until we can potentially find more money before our final budget, correct? Ms. Wideman said we could do something like that, yes. Commissioner Hyde said when I look at this, there's not a lot of meat to cut the shave off of. Chair Getto said I think maybe we just leave it at that. The departments, CC Comm, and geothermal came up with \$700,000.00 or \$800,000.00 so that's a good chunk right now. We will see where we come out for everything else. Mr. Spross said I think over time this is a very subjective number. It is not anything you are going to be able to put in the budget. We have shown in previous years that when we do have a vacancy in a position, there's obviously a savings associated with that. I think we are going to see some savings there over and above what we are talking about now. This is to the negative, but it's good for the County. I am also hoping that as a result of this Compensation Study, we will start to see less turnover, if the turnover was the result of dollars. That could have an impact on how much that organic savings could be; I really think that there is going to be some savings there. Commissioner Hyde said when we look at this budget, we are basically short what the Compensation Study added. I want to commend all the Department Heads for their focus on this Compensation Study; that was a priority for me. I can't speak for the rest of the Commission for what we've set up here. I think it was a priority for everybody, and I think we are close to where we need to be and want to be, moving forward. I am comfortable with leaving it the way it is and taking that out, because I know we are going to end up better than anticipated. When you go through this list, we have been heavily burdened with a big ask. I think that we are where we are.

Mr. Spross said for just for my understanding and maybe the Commissioner's, maybe they know already. When we are talking about money in reserve, we can't simply just wait to see at the end of the year if we need that \$975,000.00. We actually need to allocate that money at the beginning of the budget season. Then from the sound of it, it is difficult if we don't spend it. It is difficult to move that back. Is that correct? We would end up with a better than anticipated ending fund balance which subsequently would mean we would end up with a better than anticipated opening fund balance for the subsequent year in 2027-2028. Would we be able to move that money back and forth if we didn't need it? Ms. Wideman said I would have to transfer it until the end of the year. If we are rolling through 2027 and it's looking good, we don't have to transfer it. I would have to remove it from the budget when we do our augmentations, which is in the beginning of 2027. Mr. Spross said ok, that makes me feel better. Commissioner Blakey said I just want to commend staff in all of the departments for everything

you have done this year to help us get the budget where it needs to be as best we can. Just a reminder, that the budget process will be different next year and hopefully we won't have any disappointment.

Commissioner Eric Blakey made a Motion to move forward with the recommendations of this Board to balance the Budget and submit a Tentative Budget for FY27 and to direct the Comptroller to provide it to the Department of Taxation as outlined in statutes. Commissioner Matt Hyde seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Public Comment:

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

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 AM.

Approved: _____

Myles Getto, Chairman

Approved: _____

Eric Blakey, Vice-Chairman

Approved: _____

Matt Hyde, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer

Kendra Wells
Kendra Wells, Deputy Clerk