

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
CHURCHILL COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMISSION
May 7, 2026

The Board of County Highway Commissioners met in regular session on May 7, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. in the Churchill County Commissioners Chambers, 155 N. Taylor Street, Fallon, Nevada, with Chairman Eric Blakey presiding.

Those present were as follows:

Bobbie King, Recording Secretary
Caitlin Llamas, Office Specialist
Eric Blakey, Chairman
Gary Fowkes, Road Supervisor
Joe Sanford, Assistant County Manager
Matt Hyde, Commissioner
Myles Getto, Vice Chairman
Sherry Wideman, Comptroller
Wade Carner, Chief Deputy District Attorney

Those absent were as follows:

Arthur Mallory, District Attorney
Chris Spross, County Manager

Call to Order – Chairman Eric Blakey called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Verification of Agenda Posting – Recording Secretary Bobbie King verified that the agenda was posted in compliance with NRS 241 on the 30th day of April 2026, between the hours of 2:00 and 3:00 p.m., at the locations listed on the agenda, including the Churchill County Road Department, Churchill County Complex Building, Churchill County website, and the State of Nevada website.

Public Comment– Chairman Eric Blakey requested public comment at this time. John Morton distributed a folder of documents to the Commissioners and began his three-minute public comment by stating that he was formally petitioning for the reclassification of the southern section of Lahontan Dam Road, pursuant to NRS 403.170 and NRS 405.195, which govern county road designations.

Mr. Morton stated that the current minor road classification is an administrative error that does not reflect the actual use of the road. He explained that Lahontan Dam Road serves a community of approximately 60 families, with 62 mailboxes currently located at the reservoir entrance as proof of the road's use and identity. He stated that these families are forced to receive mail and essential services at the pavement because USPS has determined the minor road is too degraded for safe travel.

He stated this is a matter of life and death, not convenience. Mr. Morton explained that his father is a disabled veteran who requires home-based primary care, and that VA medical teams and emergency transports are frequently blocked by soft sand and ruts. He referenced an attached letter from EMS Chief Steve Towne confirming access concerns from Banner Medical.

Mr. Morton further stated that in January 2024, a neighbor, Dean Countryman, died of a heart attack after 911 dispatch informed his wife that an ambulance would not be sent to their road. He stated he is aware of three additional recent access-related deaths. By presenting these facts, he stated he was formally notifying the County of the risk, and that a minor road classification does not shield the County from liability once a deadly risk has been documented.

Mr. Morton stated that under NRS 403.170, roads are to be classified based on the amount of general public travel. He mentioned that Fisherman Road and Cadet Road are paved and maintained, though grandfathered, while only serving one family each. He argued that maintaining paved access for one home while requiring 60 families to act as their own emergency access is arbitrary and capricious.

He stated there is a legitimate and attainable solution, noting that on May 1, a \$25 million grant through the Rural Health Transformation Program opened under the EMS and transportation infrastructure pillar. He stated that the residents are not requesting general fund money, acknowledging that those funds are not available.

Mr. Morton formally requested that the Commissioners place the reclassification of Lahontan Dam Road on the May 20 agenda, stating that the County has an opportunity to capture state revenue and fulfill its duty to residents on Lahontan Dam Road.

Minutes – Vice Chairman Myles Getto moved to approve the minutes of the regular Highway Commission meeting held on April 2, 2026, as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Matt Hyde and carried by a unanimous vote.

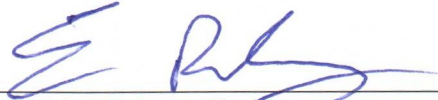
Monthly Departmental Report – Road Supervisor Gary Fowkes provided an update on Road Department matters, accomplishments, and ongoing and upcoming projects. A complete report is included in the original meeting packet.

Future Agenda Items- There were no future agenda items.

Public Comment – Chairman Eric Blakey requested public comment, and no comments were received.

Adjournment - With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Eric Blakey adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on **June 4, 2026**, at 10:30 a.m. at the 3C Event Complex, 277 Sheckler Rd, Buckland Room, Fallon, Nevada.

Approved By:



Eric Blakey, Chairman



Myles Getto, Vice-Chairman



Matt Hyde, Commissioner