

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF CHURCHILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406

August 18, 2021

CALL TO ORDER.

The regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was called to order at 1:15 PM on August 18, 2021

PRESENT: Commissioner H. Peter Olsen, Jr., Chairman
Commissioner Gregory Koenig, Vice-Chairman
Commissioner Justin Heath
County Manager Jim R. Barbee
Comptroller Sherry Wideman
Chief Civil Deputy District Attorney Benjamin D. Shawcroft
Clerk/Treasurer Linda Rothery
Deputy Clerk to the Board Pamela D. Moore

ABSENT: N/A

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

The pledge of allegiance was cited by the board and public.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

Chairman Olsen asked if there was any public comment. Geoff Knell said I have been a resident here for over 22 years. This is amazing how prayer works. I have been praying for this wake-up to come back to God's standards. I know that behind me, wow, this is a great day. The people are getting frustrated. I can read you scripture and try and encourage you to do the right thing, but you are letting the state government dictate what you are to do. That is all you are following. We are not following the First Amendment when it comes to redressing your government. You are not listening. I will give you praise now and then but I am fighting you all the time because you spend way too much money. Your Planning Commission is being the property police. You are dishonoring our Bill of Rights and the Constitution by your legal obligations. You should rebel against our state and federal government. They want to kill human rights. They want to sexualize our children. They want to force all these directives and stuff and we are finding out it is not as bad as it is, that you are making it. You are allowing the government to take our local government. It is "We the People". I want you to understand that. I am so proud of these individuals. They are going to speak their minds. The thing is, are you going to listen or are you just going to hear and do nothing? It is like your 2020 Master Plan that dictates the United Nations sustainable government Agenda 21 and Agenda 30. It seems you don't get it. Hopefully, people will speak out against the government's control because you are not going to take control of our lives. I believe in God and the Lord Jesus Christ, but you are not bold enough to stand up against evil; the evil that is in our government that you are all participating in. Sorry if I sound negative but don't you understand you have individual thoughts that the state government doesn't want you to think for yourselves? They got total control over you and that is very sad and unfortunate. Come to Christ and live. I am not going to read you scripture today because I am not going to cast pearls for swine. Wake up and listen to these people and not just hear them, listen to them. Let them speak their mind and really consider your position because the Declaration of Independence says we can remove you in every which

fashion that we can. I want to do that but I will give you forgiveness and to continue to have grace and mercy through faith, through God. Hang in there and make the right decisions.

Commissioner Koenig said is that a threat, Geoff? When you threaten to remove us by any means possible, is that a threat, a physical threat? We have the Sheriff here just in case. Geoff Knell said the Preamble of the Declaration of Independence, read it. Commissioner Koenig said is that a threat? Geoff Knell said no, it is not. No, it is not. Commissioner Koenig said thank you.

Steven Duarte said I'm very thankful for all of you. I respect you and I am glad that you are the authority in Churchill County and I appreciate the hard work that you do and the tough decisions that you guys had to make over the course of the last year and a half and I don't envy your position, so thank you. I am speaking here today because I am asking you again to take a stand on the mask mandate. Your decision not to do that so far, I can only assume is out of the desire to not lose state funding. I am not sure if that is true, but it is the only motive that I can think of and I believe that you have good intentions in this. If that is true, then it is better to not say anything and wait out the mandate so that we don't lose finances that would benefit Churchill County. I appreciate that position. By not saying anything I just want to tell you that you are saying something. You are communicating to the state government that they have the right and the ability to abuse emergency powers in order to circumvent the typical checks of power by the government. Ultimately, I am not here to make a comment on the efficacy of masks or the vaccine. I think that Dr. Heath can do a better job of that than I could. I am more concerned with the abuse of power that is taking place right now by our state government. The founding fathers created a system that was supposed to limit such abuse of power. Part of that system relies on those in smaller government authorities. In this case, our local government. The way that they check that power is by responding if the state government is abusing their power, then the local government needs to take a stand in order to prevent that. I am asking you to take a stand in order to communicate to the citizens of Churchill County and to the state that you will not allow the Governor to step outside of his lane, so to speak. I believe that this abuse of power will not stop with an end of the mask mandate. As a local government authority, you have the responsibility to protect your constituents from the abuse of power by higher authorities. I don't think that you have the luxury of not communicating anything on this position. Part of being a leader is taking a stand and communicating to those who you are an authority over what you believe is right and true and good. The right course of action is, I don't believe you have the luxury of remaining quiet on this. I will admit that I don't have all the facts on the situation but, until you are willing to speak up and take a stance, the citizens of Churchill County will remain in the dark and even the best interpretation of your actions makes it seem that you are abrogating your responsibility to protect the citizens of Churchill County from the abuse of power by the state government.

Brook Allen said you guys got a couple of Agenda requests from me, four in total. Two of them asking you to take a stance on the mask mandate and two of them asking for you to take a stance on the vaccine mandate. To be clear, what I am not asking is for you guys to get up and decide or tell us your opinions about whether masks or vaccines work. We don't care. The problem that I have with it is the mandate itself. The mandate sort of blows my mind and listening to Sisolak's comments two days ago, he is making it clear that what he is going to do is incentivize local governments and local businesses to encourage people to get vaccines and, by encourage, I mean make you get them or you can't return to your normal life. While I understand that to take a stance like that would be largely symbolic, I understand that and I understand that Sisolak would not recognize it and I don't care. You guys also already engage in symbolism because, when I opened up the computer the other day to get your email addresses, I saw you guys standing in front of the camera with a 6-foot check to the Cantaloupe Festival. That is symbolism. They are not going to walk into a bank with a 6-foot check. What you guys are doing was showing that you guys are standing behind the Cantaloupe Festival so, just in that way, it is

intellectually dishonest, it is behaviorally dishonest to say that you don't believe in the symbolism behind making the stand because you do and you show that. If you guys were to read the Federalist papers, our Founding Fathers understood that this republic does not stand. It does not stand unless it is ruling immoral people and it does not stand unless moral people are ruling the moral people. Our morality: that ship has sailed. It has sailed and has been blown up. Our only hope is that you guys, as moral people, will take a stand and fight for us. You guys are supposed to be representing us and the people in this room and what we care to tell you. What we are telling you is please take a stand. I don't care if that means that we lose funding, I don't care if that means that the Civic Center stands unfinished. Let's hang a banner on it and say #fallonteparty. Let's get rid of it, let's leave it standing for the rest of time saying that you guys finally decided to take a position because that is what we are asking you to do. You guys are the last line of defense that we have. Our federal government is overstepping its bounds 100%. Our state government is overstepping its bounds 100%. You are our last line of defense and we are asking you to please take that line for us. We will stand behind you when you do it. Black Lives Matter brought in a protest here and everybody showed up to defend our little city. We will do that for you too, ` but we need you guys to take the first stand, so I am asking you to please do that.

Linda Thompson said I am the state lead with Battle Born Patriots and I am also a resident of this county. Once again, I come before you requesting you listen to "We the People" of Churchill County to make this a Constitutional County with a firearm ordinance to protect us. Need I remind you that you work for us, not Sisolak or Biden? It is past time for you to stop ignoring those who put you in your seats or we will be forced to remove you like Esmeralda County is currently doing to their Commissioners. You took an oath, which you are not upholding, to protect the Constitution. We have tried several times to point this, to have this put on the Agenda, and you keep removing it but will not give a valid explanation. We are done being ignored here in Churchill County. Either use Robert's rules today and vote on declaring us a Constitutional County with firearms protection or place it on the next Agenda to discuss and then do it. Several counties have already done so. I have a copy of 2 of them with me today. Why won't you guys do so? The U.S. Constitution protects our God-given rights and you are supposed to defend the Constitution. For the past year and a half, our rights have been continually stomped on and you have been just following along and allowing it rather than standing up for us against the tyranny. As for the masks, I heard that you are not going to enforce the mandate but, as the old saying goes, if it is not in writing, it did not happen and you have it written right on the top of your agenda that we have to have masks to be in here. Why should we believe that you will never enforce the mandates? Quit talking out of both sides of the mouth because it is getting very confusing to all of the rest of us. I know you don't like me coming in here and calling you out, but I would not be doing it if you were doing your job. Why are you so scared of doing your job? It starts at the lower level and it works the way up. The federal government does not dictate to the state. The state does not dictate to the counties, it is reverse. "We the People" are your bosses. You go to the state and speak to them for us. They don't come to us and tell us what we have to do. We need you guys to stand up and defend those of us who have put you in those seats. That is all I am asking is stand up for "We the People" and not Sisolak. It is past time.

Robert Johnson said I have lived here in Fallon for 42 years and I have watched this county grow. I have watched it try to stay the same and that bugs the heck out of me. This is the third time I have been here before you. The first 2 times were to ask you to allow the vote to be the Second Amendment constitutionally. I am here again but today I want to ask you 3 gentlemen a question. Who do you work for? I am waiting. Sir, who do you work for? Chair Olsen said this is not interactive sir, you can come up here and give your comments. Robert Johnson said you work for us. I am not saying that as well as I would like to. You need to make decisions because I am a majority. The woman who just talked, she is the majority, as well. We are here because we want better things to happen in Churchill County. We

don't want somebody to start shoving stuff down our throat that we don't want anything to do with. It is up to you. You are our last line of defense. Please consider carefully about making Churchill County a Constitutional County where we don't have any unconstitutional laws trying to be shoved down our throat. A mandate has no effect in the law. That is all it is, is a mandate. Please do this and we would be happy with you. Thank you, gentlemen. I appreciate it, have a great day.

Leslie Beach said I gotta say you guys, to be County Commissioners, I know it takes a lot of time out of your life and I appreciate that. I agree with the people who have spoken. I want my rights too but that is not what I am here about. I wasn't going to be here, Justin, but I walked into my office, oh, by the way I live at 6755 Reno Highway and I have been in Fallon for 33 years. I own Remax Connection here in town and I used to be in charge of the Farmer's Market, so you guys know me. Anyway, I am involved in a lot of stuff but when I got a letter from the Code Compliance person telling me I can't live on my property that is zoned C-2 that I have been fixing up, which you have probably seen as you drive by. First of all, I had a guy burn up his own fifth wheel there and so the fire department was there. After that, we have been remodeling and we have been fixing it up and it is zoned for residential and commercial. I have gone through all of the laws; I have written letters and some of you have a letter and all of a sudden, I am told I can't live there. I cannot inhabit the property. I believe I purchased that in 2006 and it was built in 1943 as a residence with a duplex. I took one duplex down because it was not habitable. I have gone through the Reno Highway and found many other properties that are in existence that are running commercial or retail properties with residences on them and you have a list. The 76 Gas Station is one of them, Fallon Floors; A & K Earthmovers; Fast Glass; Behind the Scenes Cleaning; Financial Credit; Financial Horizons Credit Union; a sporting goods store that just got painted blue, if you have not noticed that lately on the Reno Highway; the sign business; Parsons Drilling; Winans business; which is not, you know, currently occupied; an old iron business; Benham's Diesel with a residence in the back; the old root beer stand, with several houses and sheds; and I actually owned 4491 Reno Highway as Beach Mortgage and when I was there it was only ran as a business. Now it is a residence, so I am being singled out as my property is just the same as all the rest of these, so my question is are you going to close the rest of these parcels down and tell them they can't have a business and a residence where it is a zoned C-2? I appreciate your help and I know you put a lot of time in and I appreciate that too.

Andy Allen said I have lived in Churchill County since 2006 and I have a driveline and gear service and I live at 4050 Hooper Place. A lot of what has been said here is, they stole my thunder but what is the big deal about a mask? Is it a big deal? I don't think so, personally. I think I could put a mask on and run a marathon. That is what I am concerned about. What I am concerned about is the government overreach. The issue is we are being lied to and lies are wrong. We were taught that ever since we were little kids by our moms. They are especially wrong when the result of them causes mass panic, fear, depression, and hate, all of which is happening because of the mandates and because of the lie and the way it has been spread on the media. Suicide rates are up because of it. The counties in Arizona, Tennessee and northern California have all reported more deaths from suicide than from COVID. You don't hear that on the news. Why is that I wonder? First, we were told by Fauci that this virus is going to kill 3%-5% of the population. Well, it turns out we actually have numbers now that shows about 1.6%. Then we were told that masks actually don't work to fight a virus and every study done up until COVID agreed with that. A few months later he changed his expert opinion to say that masks do work now. Then we were told for 2 weeks to shut down to flatten the curve, right? A year and a half later, we still have restrictions. Then we were told as soon as the vaccine came out, we would be okay, we would not have to wear masks anymore, we could go wherever we want. That is also not true. The bottom line is we are being lied to and our freedoms are being taken away as a result of the lies and overreach. Businesses are left to fend for themselves and there is hatred and

division everywhere. In my experience with government, and I am sure you guys could agree with this, once they have the power, they don't give it back. Now is the time for our true leaders to step up and tell the public publicly that this is wrong and we won't pretend that it is right. We are hoping and praying that you will be those true leaders for us. Our government is supposed to be for the people and by the people. Right now, it seems they could not care less about their people but only about what will give them more money or more power. That is corruption. It should not be stood for. Please stand up and be our voice. Tell Sisolak no; tell him what he is doing is wrong. Tell him Churchill County will not follow the mandate because it is wrong. It is lies. Support and stand with your local businesses to help them to turn this division that is being spread by lies and start standing up for the truth. We all have children we are leaving a legacy for. I am hoping we can leave them the legacy of what America was founded upon and what we should fight to preserve. It is about truth and freedom.

Jim Falk said 3 or so weeks ago I wrote a letter to you gentlemen and Ms. Dahl was kind enough to put it in her fine publication here. I am sure you read it. I was questioning the wisdom of you supporting the right of people to get vaccines. I still think it is a bad idea for you to do that. Last Saturday, my wife and I went to the Basque fry and sitting very close to me was a woman in her early to mid-30s and her hands were terribly shriveled, deformed. Obviously, something from childbirth and it hit me right away, Thalidomide. Some of you may have heard of it. It is on the internet, so you can find a whole lot of stuff on it. I am not sure if it was given to women who were pregnant or women who wanted to abort or whatever, anyway they were given it. It caused these terrible deformities in the limbs of infants. We don't know whether the vaccines or the China Flu could do anything like that. It has not been studied long enough. I figured in my letter that you would probably be praying that nobody died taking it and several people have died; nobody here in Churchill County, yet. I would not want that hanging over your heads. I would not want babies deformed because their mothers took the shots at the urging of the Churchill County Board of Commissioners.

Regarding the Constitutional County, the problem with me is, is somebody worried about showing too much loyalty to the Constitution? Can that be done? It is possible to show too much loyalty to the Constitution? I should think that you would all be proud to say that we support and defend it. To do that would be to declare Churchill County a Constitutional county. I wish you would consider that.

Kevin Smith said to be elected Commissioners in Churchill County, Justin Heath in District 1, Greg Koenig in District 3, and Pete Olsen in District 2, we the citizens of Churchill County are demanding a U.S. constitutional adherence declaration county-wide, just as Elko, White Pine, Lander, and other counties that are leading the way to a better Nevada. We are requesting a yea or nay vote by the aforementioned Commissioners so that they can be on record and can be held accountable for these actions or inactions for the ineffectual and reckless mandates, none of which are law in this state or nationwide. You have, through your leadership and inaction, allowed this government to destroy small businesses and citizens lives and homes in Churchill County with these ineffectual and reckless mandates. We are requesting this county to adhere to the U.S. Constitution, thereby removing all mandates, which are not law or edicts by this dictatorial lord and master, which have proven over this past year to be false, ineffective, and destructive to the entire state, its economy, its citizens, and our country. The U.S. Constitution, HIPPA, and ADA laws in effect right now, along with The Nuremberg Code established in 1945 and 1946, expressly prohibit any medical procedures to be forced on any citizen without informed consent. So, you can and you could be held accountable for endangering human lives for any continued adherence to the mandates, edicts, and a force or elicited vaccine. Please understand this letter is no threat to any of you. There is a promise to do what we need to do to make sure that this county is a Constitutional county and that we will be the shining light in the Battle Born State of Nevada. You either choose to effect this change and direction or be held

complicit in endangering lives and stripping away our constitutional rights to choose for ourselves. I appreciate the time and the common sense I pray that all of you will show with a ye vote for a constitutional county.

Tanya Freeman said I have a handout for you. I am not going to hammer the Second Amendment to you because you guys already know it. However, the Tenth Amendment says the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people. The people are speaking. They want this to be a constitutional county. That last Amendment says the state governor has the authority to tell the federal government that they are not going to comply. The last line says we don't have to comply with the governor's mandates. The only other option that we have left is Chapter 306 of the NRS and I believe that these people will perform that act and that is to have a recall.

Brennen Behimer said everyone else has said what I wanted to say but I will fill in a couple of gaps. The way I understand the working of government in general and the U.S. government in particular, is there is a contractual relationship between those who do the electing and those who are elected. Each side is to uphold their end of the deal. We, as those who do the electing are to follow the lawful instructions of those who are in authority and those who have been elected are also obligated to govern within the law. The nature of the contract that we have in our country is the Constitution. What we are saying here is that we are observing those who have been elected, and I don't mean to refer to you in that, I am talking about Governor Sisolak or the federal government, as well as those who have been elected not acting according to the contract. They are breaking their contract. We have options in front of us but what we want to see done is those who have been elected and acting not according to the contract to be brought back into acting according to the contract. I am proud to be a Nevadan. I am proud to be from Churchill County and to be an American. I am happy to submit to lawful authority. It just seems that, in these cases with mask mandates and other things coming down the pike with the vaccine passports and stuff, the issue is those who are elected are not keeping their end of the deal. They are not staying within the government as they ought to. They are moving outside the law and so there is a break in the contract. It is not my desire to overthrow anybody or anything like that. I would just like to see that come back into the bounds of the law and that is where you come in. I can only do so much, which is very little, but you have a much greater voice. We are calling upon you to step in and act in that regard to bring that authority that is errant back into line. I think the way with Churchill County is I have sat here before is that we sort of do a silent non-compliance if we don't like the rule. We are not really going to comply, but we are not going to say anything about it and what I want to say to you is that our silent non-compliance equals consent and approval in the court of public opinion and equals complicity. That means that we, as a county, and you all in particular end up being complicit with the direction this all goes. I don't think any of us want that. I think you are, in those chairs, at this time, for just such a time as this, to provide leadership in this situation.

Rupert Wyble, 6819 Victor Drive, said I would speak of the Constitution, but I think it has been pretty well covered. I would say I think you guys are kind of sitting on the fence and I think you ought get off. For a number of reasons, it is confusing to people. You gotta remember in Nevada most of the fences are barbed wire. Enough said. My comment is does our Search and Rescue helicopter have the ability to drop water? Has it been fitted, have the people been trained, could it drop water if it needed to? Does our Master Plan have any interface with the Navy that they might be able to drop water with their fixed wing aircraft? I think that is something we should. Chairman Olsen said, I can answer that. Churchill County does not own a helicopter, but we do contract with the Nevada Division of Forestry and they do have helicopters and we pay them a sum every year and for that, if we have a fire here

they can drop water. Rupert Wyble said I think our own preparedness might help too. Chairman Olsen said we are prepared by contracting with the Nevada Division of Forestry. That is the preparation. We have our own fire department that can move about. We have a bush truck that is 4-wheel drive and everything. Rupert Wyble said okay, they might be a little busy right now.

Linda Hartweg said I have to agree with all that has been said about the overreach of the government. We should all be seeing that. One thing I want to add to what has been said is compliance, but also, there is so much complacency. People just don't seem to care; they don't want to fight. Maybe in some situations they just want to hold their hand out and get the federal funding instead of trying to figure out what to do in their budgets where they don't need to have their hand out so much. We need to do all we can to protect the county and its citizens from obvious overreach that is coming down on us. I strongly support becoming a constitutional county and I just hope that more people will get some fight in them and not be such fence sitters, as I like to call it, and not be so complacent. We have got to stand up to what is coming down on us, otherwise, we are lost.

Chairman Olsen said I know we sit up here in frustration and I see all you folks here. You have better things to do than come down here and hassle us for an hour or however long it is going to go on. I am fine with that; I want to hear it. It is the political frustration being expressed here and we are the closest to you people. That is why your Churchill County government is a pretty good government, on the whole, which is because we are the closest to you and you can come talk to us, you can send me an email, and you know you are going to see me in two weeks here, if no place else. You have seen me for years here, Linda, and a bunch of you other folks have too that like to come down and let us know what you think. That political frustration, I am hearing it; I have it too. I remember being here at a meeting about 7 years ago, which, unfortunately, I am going to bang on the BLM a little bit, but the BLM was working on their Resource Management Plan and there was 350-400 people here on a July evening and it was sweltering in this room. The AC couldn't begin to keep up and we had 13 people come forward and make public comments to the BLM. Do you know how many of those were heard by the BLM? Zero. The BLM has learned how to go like this to the people - as he puts his fingers in his ears to display not listening. To me, as a politician, when there are 350 people in a sweltering room, that is a public comment all by itself and everybody is angry. They are getting hot about things. You don't have that kind of government here; we hear you and we hear what you are saying. We have the same frustrations. We talked a little bit about the Constitution here. Everybody has apparently become a Constitutional scholar. If you stick around in our meeting here, there is somebody here that is going to become a member of our Library Board that is going to take an oath; the same oath that I swore to, an oath to uphold the Constitution and the laws of United States and the State of Nevada. There is no need for any of us to take a Constitutional litmus test. I have stood up before God and everybody and sworn that I would uphold it. That has not changed. I know everybody is frustrated. We are frustrated as heck too. This has been a horrible blight on our land, it has pitted people against each other, and people have common sense and politics mixed up now and again, in my opinion. Science and politics have been mixed up. People play both sides of it. Somebody mentioned Fauci's comments back and forth. Every one of them is true. I have heard all those too. Our Vice-President and President, before they got elected, said Donald Trump did this, I am not going to take the vaccine and then, as soon as the vaccine was available, they took it. So, people play politics with this and a lot of folks have paid with their lives. With regard to politicians, as far as I have seen with us here, we take the responsibility of what we have here very seriously. We have not backed down one minute in doing what we thought was right. I know there are people in this room that think what we are doing is not right. That is your right. Go ahead, run for election, and see if you can win and then you get to make these decisions but the folks in this community made their choices to put us here and we are doing the best we can with the information we have. I am going to continue to do that irregardless.

There are a lot of people that don't agree with me, they want to show up here and want to try and recall me, which is fine, but I am going to do what is best to the best of my understanding. I have worked very hard at this job and have become very knowledgeable about the job at hand with this matter and 100 other matters that are pertinent to the county and I will continue to do that until my last day in office.

Chairman Olsen asked if there was any further public comment. Jim Falk stood up and wanted to make comment but Chairman Olsen said he had already made his comments and we were going to let everybody else make comment first. Mr. Falk continued to talk from the audience but his comments could not be heard and Chairman Olsen again asked him to take a seat until the second public comment section.

Miles Parrish said I have been involved in a lot of different types of recalls and everything else. Everybody who is running for office, I don't care what the office is, everybody gets a chance to say what they believe and what they are doing and what they wish to accomplish. As far as I am concerned, you work for us so, therefore, that is a job interview. You are trying to be re-elected or first-time election, you are actually being interviewed or giving us your resume to become part of the people that work for the county. So far, what I have heard is that everybody wants to sit on the fence, they don't want to do anything. We need action, not people that thought everything was going to be fine, it is going to work out well. It doesn't always work that way. Now, I realize there are certain things in the Constitution that you cannot do and certain things you can do. We need to understand the differences and the nuances that are being done. Masks to me are a total absolute waste of time and so are the shots. Most of the people who have received the shot are still testing positive. To me, that shot didn't do a darn thing. When I was in the service, I received shots for just about everything you could think of and some that I couldn't. It seems to me that they worked. When you are wearing a mask, all you are doing is breathing in the same crap in your mouth and your mouth is probably the dirtiest part of your body. You are not helping anything wearing a mask. We need to eliminate the masks and we need to tell Governor Sisolak to stuff it. No more masks, no more mandates. He needs to get off his high horse and do what he was elected for, which is tell the President we are not going to take it anymore. We are going to be a Constitutional county and a Constitutional state and that is just the bottom line.

Zoey Barnes said I was born and raised in Fallon and I am young. This is my future not anybody else's and my future requires freedom and that is what I believe in and I am tired of being mandated when it is not a law. I agree with freedom of choice and freedom of speech. I was raised in a conservative household but I am a Libertarian, so for me to come here today and even stick up for this is kinda big. At 24 years old, I have a long way to go and I am sorry some of these people don't, I would like you to back me today and everybody who is my age, your own kids and grandkids, it is our future so let's make this Constitutional.

Thoma Tom said I am a tribal member out here in the Fallon Tribe. Being Native American, even our own tribal government stomps on us. There is strength in numbers so, I was not here for the whole meeting to hear anybody else talk about what is going on in Churchill County or in Nevada or even what is going on in America. I think the Constitution stands and I think we have a lot of rights and I am starting to wonder what country we are living in because we are losing our freedoms. I would like Churchill County or this commission to stand up for us. I have one daughter and one granddaughter and none of us know what tomorrow is going to bring but I, just with that, you know, I don't know what it is going to take for this county, for the leaders and the people. Do we have to protest here in

Fallon like they do in Carson or different parts of the state? I don't know what needs to be done. Everybody has a voice and their opinion needs to be heard.

VERIFICATION OF THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA.

It was verified by Pamela D. Moore, Deputy Clerk to the Board, that the Revised Agenda for this meeting was posted on the 13th day of August 2021, between the hours of 8:00 and 9:00 AM 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 Koenig made a motion to approve the Revised Agenda as submitted. Commissioner Heath seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RE: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:

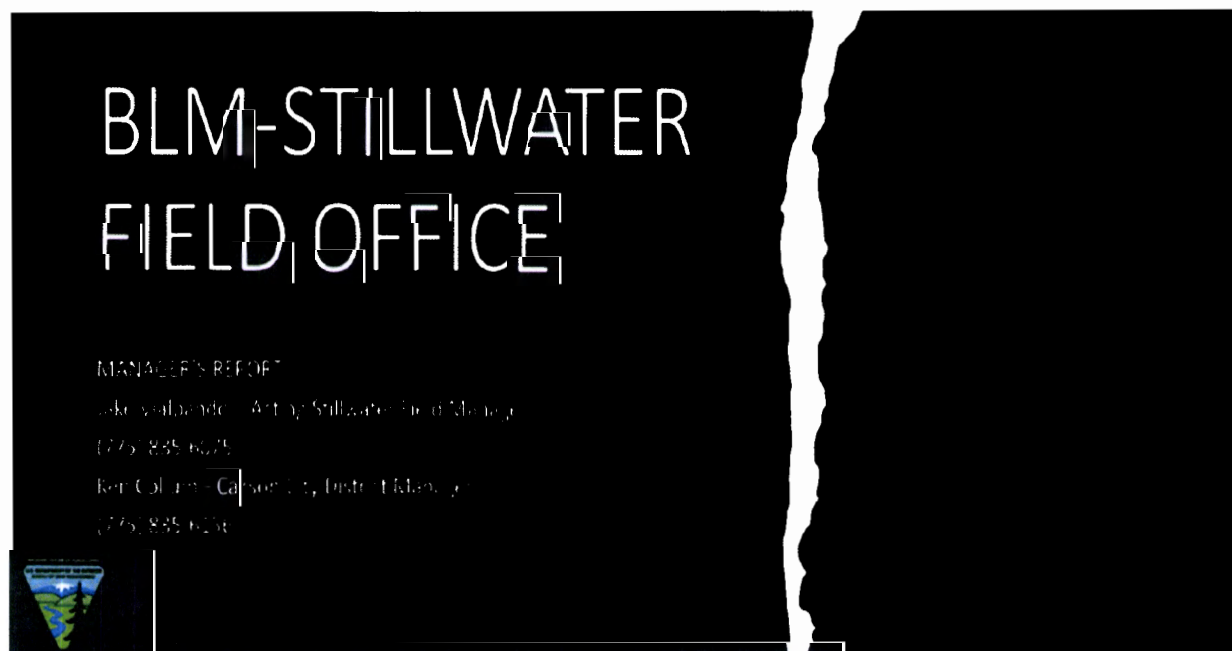
1. Minutes of July 21, 2021, Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Heath made a motion to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on July 21, 2021, as presented. Commissioner Koenig seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

APPOINTMENTS:

2. Ken Collum, District Manager, said Stillwater Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, will provide an update of current activities, plans, or actions related to the Bureau of Land Management's Carson City District.

Ken Collum said thank you for the introduction earlier. He had a PowerPoint presentation as follows:



CHURCHILL COUNTY

• RENEWABLE ENERGY

- *Dixie Meadows GT*
 - *Finalizing EA, FONSI and Responses to Comments*
 - *Projected Completion:*
 - *Week of August 16*
- *Diamond Flat Exploration (South of Fallon)*
 - *Collecting baseline studies*
 - *Reviewing well drilling application*
- *Geothermal Lease Sale*
 - *Final NEPA documentation to be posted on 8/20*



• GRAZING & WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT

- *Edwards Porter Grazing Permit Renewal*
 - *Issued Final Decision June 28*
 - *Appeal period closed July 28*
 - *Received appeal from Wildlands Defense*
 - *Response to appeal due August 23*
- *2021 Drought Grazing Agreements*
 - *Bench Creek Ranch*
 - *Jack Payne*
- *Fall Grazing Drought Letters*
 - *Issued with fall grazing applications*
 - *Nevada BLM continues to monitor drought conditions, maintaining communication discussing flexibilities with permittees and monitor WH&B condition.*

- ***Desatoya Wild Horse Gather Final Decision***
 - 4/5 BLM issued Decision
 - 4/30 Wildlands Defense/Laura Leigh filed appeal/stay
 - 6/21 IBLA denied Stay Request
 - 7/23 BLM Administrative Record for Appeal
 - Appellants reply under review
- **Clan Alpine & Stillwater HMAs**
 - 2021 census results being tabulated



Regarding the Vegas to Reno Race, that concluded over the weekend. There was one death and nine medicals. We are in the cleanup phase to get things back to the way there were by picking up trash.

The proposed Navy extension of the Mineral withdrawal is still in the Secretary's office.

Chairman Olsen asked if there was any public comment but there was none. He said, regarding the fires, we get to choke on all the smoke, but I am not knowledgeable of too much of it on the Nevada side of the line. Ken Collum said that is correct. I am hesitant to even talk about it. There has not been a lot going on in Nevada. Part of that is because of the minimal cheat grass this year and, when it does grow, it is pretty stunted. We have not really had those lightning events like we usually do. We are holding our breaths. If you look at the fire map, there is a big hole in the middle of it and that is Nevada. I think in this district, so far, we have burned about 85 acres. This item was presented for informational purposes only and no action was taken.

3. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RE: RESOLUTION 18-2021 PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF CHURCHILL COUNTY'S 2021 PRIVATE ACTIVITY BOND VOLUME CAP TO THE NEVADA RURAL HOUSING AUTHORITY, WHEREBY THE REQUESTED TRANSFER IS FOR FUNDS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN ALLOCATED TO LOCAL PROJECTS AND WOULD OTHERWISE REVERT BACK TO THE STATE.

Mishon Hurst, Deputy Executive Director of the Nevada Rural Housing, made this presentation. She said Churchill County has been transferring the unused Private Activity Bond Volume Cap to the Nevada Rural Housing Authority since 2006. This request is for funds that have not been allocated to local projects and would otherwise revert back to the state. NRHA will pool the transferred funds with transfers received from other counties and eligible cities for single-family programs to assist first-time homebuyers.

NRHA's flagship program, 'Home at Last', has continued helping families achieve affordable home ownership. Programs like the Mortgage Credit Certificate (MCC), Down Payment Assistance, and lease-to-own programs are all designed to help Nevada families overcome some of the barriers associated with home ownership.

Private activity bond cap allocations may be used to fund the issuance of tax-exempt debt for industrial development bonds, pollution control facilities, single-family or multi-family programs. Unfortunately, the allocations the jurisdictions receive are not enough by themselves to fund a project of any kind. In order for any jurisdiction to make use of its funds, they must apply to the state for matching funds. If the funds cannot be utilized by the cities and counties, they revert back to the state on September 1st.

NRHA has developed the concept of asking all participating jurisdictions to transfer their funds to NRHA if they have no specific uses for their funds so that NRHA may pool all the funds and do a single-family tax-exempt bond issue with the proceeds being lent in each of the participating jurisdictions. This way funds meant for a city or county are spent in that city or county for first time homebuyers.

NRHA feels this concept is truly a win-win for all parties. Funds meant for the communities are spent in the communities. Eligible homebuyers are assisted with buying their first homes. The programs are not in competition as it is local lenders who loan the funds, local realtors who sell the homes and, if newly constructed, local builders who provide the housing. Furthermore, the community's tax base is increased. The participating jurisdiction incurs no liability for the transfer of the funds, and no liability for the bond issue. Churchill County has transferred a little over \$9.7M since 2006, which helps us to provide for this financing. I have state numbers, but I prefer to focus on Churchill County. If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer those.

Leslie Beach said thank you for what you do. I have personally been involved with several people that have been able to use this funding and I am super excited about it. Thank you for something we can now do that we could not previously do, which is mobile homes. That is awesome.

Chairman Olsen asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHURCHILL COUNTY, NEVADA PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF THE COUNTY'S 2021 PRIVATE ACTIVITY BOND VOLUME CAP TO THE NEVADA RURAL HOUSING AUTHORITY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

Commissioner Koenig made a motion to adopt Resolution 18-2021 providing for the transfer of Churchill County's 2021 Private Activity Bond Volume Cap to the Nevada Rural Housing Authority. Commissioner Heath seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

4. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RE: REVIEW OF THE SECURED LOG CHANGES PURSUANT TO NRS 361.310(4) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022.

Pursuant to NRS 361.310(4), each year the Churchill County Assessor shall keep a log of all changes in value made to the secured roll after it has been re-opened. On or before October 31st each year, the County Assessor shall transmit a copy of the log to the Board of County Commissioners and the Nevada Tax Commission.

Assessor Denise Felton made this presentation as outlined in the Agenda Report.

Chairman Olsen asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Commissioner Heath made a motion to note in the Minutes that the 2021-2022 Secured Log Changes have been reviewed pursuant to NRS 361.310(4). Commissioner Koenig seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

5. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RE: REQUEST FOR FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,000 FOR THE FALLON ANIMAL WELFARE GROUP (FAWG)

Diane Woods made this presentation as provided in the Agenda Report and had a PowerPoint presentation as follows:



WHAT DOES FAWG DO?

FAWG takes care of a problem no one else in Fallon wants to tackle

Fallon has thousands of feral cats.

They are in Churchill County but go to other counties and cities if someone calls from another town with an emergency, FAWG will NOT turn them down.

These two pictures represent who FAWG is



OUR VOLUNTEERS

Basically, our volunteers pay to volunteer!

They pay for their own gas, oil changes, tires and car repairs.

They travel to Carson City or Reno and spend the entire day while waiting for the cat's to be neutered.

They keep those cats for 24 hours to make sure they have no complications.

They are always seeking donations through Flea Markets, community businesses, individuals, and local and national organizations.

Fostering Volunteers: care for newborn kittens with no mama cat. They require feeding every two hours 24/7

FAWG Phone: This is manned 24/7 as well. From 5am-8pm someone is always available to answer questions and concerns. This phone is also paid by volunteers.



Programs

- Katty Shack
- Barn Cat (Working Cat)
- Pat's Pound Cat
- TNR (Trap, Neuter, Release)
- Grooming for Senior Citizen Pets
- Help low income residents of Fallon spay or neuter

The Katty Shack

- **Katty Shack:** Is a little building that Fallon Floors donated to FAWG, but it was a mess and needed an overhaul. This little shack is for potential cat owners to come and meet the cats and kittens in a controlled environment. Everything done to make this building usable was donated by local businesses or the volunteers themselves.





Barn Cat's (Working Cat's) Program

- These are located all over the United States. Fallon, Nevada is privileged enough to have one right here!



Cat Sanctuary Grant
FAWG received a grant to build a sanctuary. This building and the fenced in area houses many cats. This is manned also only by volunteers.

Spay and Neutering

Since January 2021, 982 cats have been taken to Reno to be spayed or neutered. That is an average of 122.75 per month!!

The volunteers drive to Reno, check the cats in, spend the entire day waiting around in Reno and then drive the cats back to Fallon. Once back, the volunteers have to keep an eye on the cats for 24 hour to make sure there are no complications.

Who is paying for all of this? Donations and the volunteers themselves.

WHY GIVE FAWG HELP?

Before the pandemic, FAWG was donated pallets of food from Chewy 2-4 times a month.

They would have a booth set up at Walmart for people to donated items as they walked in or out.

Chewy started selling their damaged bags elsewhere and stopped donating and with Covid, sitting outside Walmart isn't possible.

Ideally, what does FAWG need?

- FAWG needs help from this community, not just monetarily.
- They need volunteers to help with the cats and kittens
- A larger building or facility
- Community leaders to take notice of the service that they are providing
- An experienced grant writer to help them get donations
- People who want to give their time and energy
- Someone who has new and exciting ideas for fundraisers, donations, and any money-making projects

This is what I want to see from this meeting:

- Do you own a business or provide a service in some way in this community?
- Can you spare an hour a week? How about a \$25 gift card for gas? Maybe an oil change?
- Do you have a family member or employee who knows how to write grants?
- Do you have children or grandchildren that could benefit from volunteering that could get involved?
- When you go to Walmart, Safeway, Dollar Tree, or Family Dollar, purchase a bag of cat food, some cleaning supplies, or maybe cat litter. Most people can afford an extra \$5.
- Do you have unwanted items to donate for them to sell at their Flea Market?
- Do you have old towels or other items that could be used at one of the FAWG locations for the cats and kittens?
- A donation is not just about money, its food, water, items like that, but also your time, energy and knowledge.

In Conclusion

FAWG is run primarily by Fallon's older generation.

Do they need a lot more money than they are asking for? YES.

Do they need a bigger facility to call home? YES.

Everyone in this meeting can be part of the solution to FAWG's needs. You just need to be willing to HELP ☺



Chairman Olsen asked if there was any public comment. Geoff Knell said I want to encourage my Commissioner, Greg Koenig, to vote for this. It is spending the taxpayers' dollars for a worthy cause.

Chairman Olsen said, in our backup material, it said that the last time that we donated money was 2016. There were a few different ladies at that time. How have you gotten along for the 5 years without funding? Brenda Utterback said Chewy paid off very well. We do have one program and that is Maddie's Day. The cats are adopted for free to the public and we get from them \$200 per cat and that goes into our funds so that we can fix the feral cats. When we give the feral cats away, we get them fixed and then they are free. We just request that you give them a good life. I understand the thought process when it comes to animals that are extra, just put a bullet in them and you are done. I understand that but when you actually see older people and the ones that are poor and homeless get to pet the cats and it is rewarding. I like cats and dogs, but I love the underdog and these women are working their hind quarters off. There is not a whole lot of us, but you have to count how many cats we have actually fixed. Just going to one vet here in Fallon is \$225. Chairman Olsen said sorry to interrupt you, so the answer to the question was you lost donations from Chewy and that is why you are here today and you have been able to get along without that funding since 2016. Brenda Utterback said not actually. Less cats are taken and less operations are done like if there is a flaw in your body you just go have it cut. We can't take it the vet when we can't afford it. Chairman Olsen said I am just trying to figure out how you have supported yourself for the last 5 years without funding. Brenda Utterback said how we got along was mainly people off of the street, mainly seniors, because every time we have any type of show or any type of stand-up, they would donate. To have anything done here it is too much so all we get money from is Maddie's Day and people that donate. Chairman Olsen said and before you were getting food from Chewy, so that has really made the budget.

Diane Woods said the reason they have not asked for money is that would be something that I would do but I didn't know I could do this, so when this was brought to me 2 months ago, I was like, give me the application and I will get this done. Had I known for the last 4 years that we could have done this, we would have been here every year.

Chairman Olsen asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Commissioner Koenig made a motion to approve funding in the amount of \$3,000 to support the Fallon Animal Welfare Group. Commissioner Heath seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

6. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF DAVID BRAKEBILL TO THE CHURCHILL COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

County Manager Barbee made this presentation as outlined in the Agenda Report.

Chairman Olsen asked if there was any public comment. Geoff Knell said I would like to talk to this individual and find out about his political affiliation. I am with the Nevada Mass Resistance. Chairman Olsen said Geoff, just stop. This is not an inquisition. You don't get to do that. Geoff Knell said what are you trying to say? Chairman Olsen said, you heard me. Geoff Knell said this is not the place? Chairman Olsen said, correct. If Mr. Brakebill wishes to have a sidebar with you later, he may or may not. That is his choice. Geoff Knell said, well, since I don't know him, okay, then I can't trust him. The Nevada Revised Statutes says to find a competent person, competent. You have a few on your Library Board who are not, in my opinion. I fought against the Drag Queen Story Hour from coming here. One of the persons on the Library Board is okay with it. Men dressed up as women, which is sexualizing little children. I would just like to know what his point of view is. Is he for inclusiveness and diversity and to allow, if they do approach the library, they have permission to have men dressed up as women, so they can be sexualized? That is my difference there. Is he competent and will he not let the ideology dictate if they do come, when they come, to say no to their sexual perversion? Competency. If this man is politically influenced through the political party of communism to take homosexuality and promiscuity and make it look natural and healthy. I don't want it. It is bad. It is sexual perversion. It is supposed to be about a conservative community. I want to prevent that from happening. What is his political view? Will he allow it to happen? That is my question. Thank you. Chairman Olsen asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Commissioner Heath made a motion to appoint David Brakebill to serve an unexpired term on the Library Board of Trustees through October 31, 2022. Commissioner Koenig seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

LETTERS RECEIVED:

7. Consideration and possible action re: Nevada Division of Environmental Protection's notification of a Class II Air Quality Permit Application filed by ORNI 32 LLC, Dixie Meadows Geothermal, its Director's Review, intent to issue a Draft Class II Air Quality Permit, and public comment period.
8. Consideration and possible action re: Notification from the Bureau of Land Management of the Vegas to Reno Off-Highway Vehicle Race 2021.
9. Consideration and possible action re: Notification from the Bureau of Land Management of the Battle Mountain District Wide Emergency Drought Water Hauling Authorization.
10. Consideration and possible action re: The State of Nevada Abandoned Mine Lands Program (AML) submits its 2020 Nevada Abandoned Mine Lands Physical Hazards Report.

NEW BUSINESS:

11. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RE: APPROVAL OF THE RECLASSIFICATION OF SHELLY CHAMBERLAIN FROM OFFICE SPECIALIST TO HUMAN SERVICES SPECIALIST.

Geof Stark, Human Resources Director, made this presentation as outlined in the Agenda Report.

Chairman Olsen asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Commissioner Koenig made a motion to reclassify Shelly Chamberlain from an Office Specialist to a Human Services Specialist, effective August 23, 2021. Commissioner Heath seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

12. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RE: AUTHORIZATION TO USE ROAD IMPACT FEES, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$240,000, AS THE FUNDING SOURCE FOR THE CHURCHILL COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN A JOINT PROJECT WITH TRUCKEE CARSON IRRIGATION DISTRICT TO INSTALL PIPING ON A PORTION OF MINERS ROAD.

Gary Fowkes, Road Supervisor, made this presentation as outlined in the Agenda Report.

Chairman Olsen said for our \$240,000, does that include work on the road itself? Gary Fowkes said no. That is just the drain. I will be coming at a later time about the road. Chairman Olsen said is that going to be available for parking or anything like that? Gary Fowkes said it is. We can park on it or put a fence on it, which can be taken down if TCID needs to get in there to do some maintenance or whatever. We just can't build a building on it. There are 8 manholes involved in it and a few drains we have to tie in. Chairman Olsen said I just know that the drain the county put in 30 years ago on Allen Road, I think they have been in it twice. This eliminates problems. They don't plug very often. Gary Fowkes said it is just a safety concern. The overflow parking is behind and across Miners Road, so you know there are going to be kids running back and forth. It is just not a good scenario.

Commissioner Heath said are they going to cover that curve right there that goes down to the ballpark? Gary Fowkes said they are going to start on that end and then end up right past the outdoor arena. That is pretty much where everybody is going to be walking back and forth and it should be covered.

Chairman Olsen asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Commissioner Heath made a motion to authorize the use of Road Impact Fund fees, in an amount not to exceed \$240,000, for the Churchill County Road Department to participate in a joint project with Truckee Carson Irrigation District to install piping on a portion of Miners Road. Commissioner Koenig seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

13. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RE: APPROVAL OF THE GRANT OF A UTILITY EASEMENT TO SIERRA PACIFIC POWER COMPANY FOR COMMUNICATION AND POWER FACILITIES AT 5005 RENO HWY, APN 008-473-01

Joseph Sanford, Deputy District Attorney, made this presentation as outlined in the Agenda Report.

Deputy DA Sanford said it was brought to us by Nokia and AT&T. They are working on installing some facilities on the communications tower that is located at this property and this easement is so that Sierra

Pacific will allow them to connect those facilities to the power pole on the property. There are already a number of other communication facilities on that tower that are connected to the power pole. AT&T just did not have that authority and so they are asking for this easement to make that happen. We have already communicated with CC Communications, which is the entity situated on that property and mostly manages it. They have reviewed the plans and have no objections. It would be an asset to the citizens of the county. As the legal owner, we would ask that you sign this easement. Chairman Olsen said is that the same piece of property that has the Fire Department there too? Deputy DA Sanford said I am not sure. It is like a little triangle right off the Reno Highway. Chairman Olsen said it is near Skip's Market. We have a couple of fire trucks stationed out there in a building to the west. Deputy DA Sanford said there is sort of a building on the back end to the west. Chairman Olsen said I am assuming this will not affect this building at all. It is on the other side of the property. I just know that we need to know that for certain because I know there has been talk in the past of expanding that building for the Fire Department and we would have to negotiate that with CC Communications and so forth. We don't want to give an easement if it is going to land in the middle of where we want to put a building in the future. You are certain that it is on the east side of the property? Deputy DA Sanford said the easement is on the east side. I have not heard anything whether it would impact the Fire Department's plans. There are already facilities in this easement, so it is not going to change. They would have to move all the facilities if it were to impact it. This will not create a new impact.

Chairman Olsen asked if there were any public comments but there were none.

Commissioner Koenig made a motion to approve and direct the Chair to sign a Grant of Easement to Sierra Pacific Power Company for property located at 5005 Reno Hwy, Fallon, Nevada, APN 008-473-01. Commissioner Heath seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

CONSENT ITEMS: (Action Items generally not requiring discussion or explanation.)

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered routine and may be acted upon by the Board of County Commissioners with one action and without an extensive hearing. Any member of the board or any citizen may request that an item be taken from the Consent Agenda, discussed and acted upon separately during this meeting.

14. Consideration and possible action re: Completion of the Indebtedness Report as of June 30, 2021 and the related Capital Improvement Plan for Churchill County.
15. Consideration and possible action re: Court Services' Fourth Quarter Revenue Report for the period of April to June 2021, reflecting \$4,951 in revenue for the quarter.
16. Consideration and possible action re: Sheriff's Civil Report for the month of July 2021 showing a total of \$22,664 collected as revenue for fees associated with civil services provided.
17. Consideration and possible action re: Building Department's Building Permit Report for July 2021.
18. Consideration and possible action re: Report of each fund in the treasury and statement of revenue and expenditures pursuant to NRS 251.030 and NRS 354.290.

Chairman Olsen asked if there were any public comments but there were none.

Commissioner Heath made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. Commissioner Koenig seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

Chairman Olsen asked if there was any public comment. Leslie Beach said I am wondering if Sierra Pacific is going to pay the total cost of whatever they are doing? Chairman Olsen said yes.

Victor Williams said it is my understanding that you did pass a memorandum or whatever that you are in favor of the new thing from Elko County dealing with firearms. Chairman Olsen said you are misinformed. We did not pass anything that was not agendized. Victor Williams said I just got secondhand information. So, nothing has been done about the firearms? Chairman Olsen said the 2nd Amendment still stands and we have all sworn to uphold the Constitution.

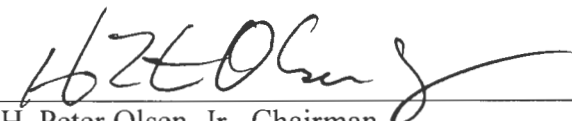
Geoff Knell said it is just amazing what you are doing. Your speech there Mr. Olsen was telling us tough. It is just amazing. Regarding the library, it compliments it. On the way out, Kelli Kelly, who is a Democrat and ran against Greg Koenig, she is for sexual immorality. So, it means political ideology and you just signed somebody who is saying to be competent and knows the system, they are going to allow it to happen. They are going to allow it to happen. It is just going through paperwork. Let's take a serious interview on somebody who claims to be competent. The Library Board Association has been taken over with communism. They are for the LGBTQ and sexualizing the children. I know Kelli Kelly, for sure, is okay with it. I don't know why you don't remove her and she gets to term limit out. You need to evaluate. This county is turning from conservatism to communism. Slowly, you are taking away our freedoms and sexualizing the children. Come on, wake up. Wake up. Chairman Olsen asked if there was any further public comment but there was none.

CLAIMS AND PAYROLL TRANSMITTALS.

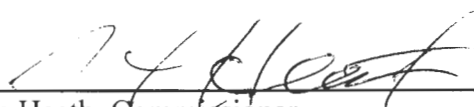
The claims and payroll transmittals were submitted for board approval.

ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00PM.

Approved: 
H. Peter Olsen, Jr., Chairman

Approved: 
Greg Koenig, Vice-Chairman

Approved: 
Justin Heath, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Renae Paholke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Renae Paholke, Deputy Clerk