

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE CHURCHILL COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMISSION
May 17, 2023

The Board of County Highway Commissioners met in regular session on the above date at 1:15 p.m. at the Churchill County Commissioners Chambers, 155 N. Taylor St, Fallon, NV, with Chairman Heath presiding.

Those present were as follows:

Justin Heath, Chairman
Gary Fowkes, Road Supervisor
Joe Sanford, District Attorney's Office
Naomi Steele, Recording Secretary
Harry Scharmann, Commissioner

Myles Getto, Vice Chairman
Jim Barbee, County Manager
Sherry Wideman, Comptroller
Bobbie King, Clerical Specialist

Those absent were as follows:

None

Call to order – Chairman Heath called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Verification of the agenda posting – Recording Secretary Steele verified the agenda was posted per NRS 241 on the 11th day of May 2023 between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. at the locations listed on the agenda. Those locations include the Churchill County Road Department, Churchill County Complex Building, Churchill County Web Site, and the State of Nevada Website.

Public Comment – Resident Randy Dewater introduced himself to the board and stated he didn't necessarily have an address right now. He said that he purchased 40-plus acres that they can no longer use due to flooding. He has filed a Commission agenda item request and wanted to make everyone aware of it. He hopes they can get something resolved with the issue, either the county can buy their property for the price they paid or create a canal that runs through so they can still use their property for what they purchased it for, a family ranch.

Civil Deputy DA Sanford advised Mr. Dewater that he was speaking at a Highway Commission meeting, and his comments may be more appropriate at the Commissioner's meeting that begins at 1:15 p.m. Mr. Dewater asked if it was necessary to speak again, and Chairman Heath advised he did not because it would be on the record.

Agenda – Vice-Chairman Getto motioned to approve the agenda as posted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scharmann and carried by a unanimous vote.

Minutes – Commissioner Scharmann motioned to approve the joint meeting minutes with the County Commissioner's – Declaration of Emergency on March 2, 2023, as submitted. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Getto, and carried by a unanimous vote.

Vice-Chairman Getto motioned to approve the minutes of the regular Highway Commission meeting on April 06, 2023, as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scharmann, and carried by unanimous vote.

New Business:

- A. Consideration and possible action re: discussion and approval of the Road Supervisor's maintenance plan for general county roads**— Road Supervisor Gary Fowkes said the Churchill County Road Department maintains hundreds of miles of road to ensure the proper, safe, and orderly movement of vehicles within the County. The Highway Commission identifies each public road within the County as one of (a) a main county road, (b) a general county road, or (c) a minor county road. See NRS 403.170. Main County roads and general county roads are normally constructed to standard specifications to ensure the regularity of maintenance costs and performance. See NRS 403.180. Minor county roads, on the other hand, are generally created by usage or public dedication, and may not have been constructed to any particular standard. The County does not maintain any minor county road.

The Road Department currently maintains the general county roads based on their amount of public travel and degree of importance to the people of the whole county. For example, major arterial roads may be serviced once a month, while some of the outlying general county roads, often referred to as minimally maintained roads, are serviced about once a year when personnel and equipment are available. In the long term, the Road Department and the District Attorney's Office intend to create a map and accompanying regulations identifying the outlying minimally maintained general county roads and the regularly maintained general county roads in the future. At present, it is recommended to continue granting the Road Supervisor discretion in determining the priority for road maintenance.

The cost of road construction and maintenance materials has vastly exceeded inflation and anticipated tax revenues. Main county roads and general county roads with substantial traffic volumes will be the focus of the Road Department. General county roads in the outlying areas will be minimally maintained as budgetary, personnel, and equipment constraints allow. Should the Road Department be unable to service the minimally maintained roads in a satisfactory manner, private citizens who use the road may need to enter into maintenance agreements, or the Highway Commission may need to designate the road as a minor county road and forego maintenance entirely.

Supervisor Fowkes said he is referring to the outlying county roads. When we go there, we take a piece of equipment and it takes weeks and weeks to maintain. He currently follows the same maintenance plan that the road department has always done, which is blading the outlying county roads once a year. He said that we recently purchased another motor grader, which will make it a little easier. Today, he would like to have the board approve his current maintenance plan or have a discussion about what they would prefer he does.

Chairman Heath asked for board or staff comments. County Manager Barbee added that we are all aware that our fuel tax revenue is not going up, it is flat. One of the struggles we are having is although they are flat, everything is more expensive because of the inflation over the past three years, which is something that is impacting the ability of the road department on some of these roads.

Civil Deputy DA Sanford restated this is already the road department's current practice, he is not asking for anything different. The road supervisor already has this discretion but this is more information for the board to understand what his plan is and if the board wants to change it. Commissioner Scharmann asked if the plan was to go out and blade these roads once a year. Mr. Fowkes said yes, the outlying roads in the county, but the other roads that are close to town get bladed a lot more. After a brief discussion on which roads

were considered outlying, Commissioner Scharmann asked Gary what he was asking of the board. Gary said nothing, unless you would like to see the road department do anything different.

Chairman Heath asked for public comments. Resident Craig Travis sent a representative to speak on his behalf. The representative said Craig's concern is if you plan to lessen the maintenance on Alpine Road, there will be more vehicles traveling on Antelope Road, which is already a mess due to the winter conditions. Therefore, Mr. Travis's question today is will you be cutting the maintenance on Alpine Road? Road Supervisor Fowkes told him we are not cutting the maintenance on Alpine Road, we are leaving it the same. Gary said that Ormat currently has a road maintenance agreement in place on Alpine Road, and will be spending approximately \$400,000 to upgrade the road. He advised, since 2015 the road department has spent approximately \$600,000 on improvements for Alpine Road.

Vice-Chairman Getto motioned to approve the road supervisor's maintenance plan for general county roads, subject to his discretion to modify the plan based on budgetary, personnel, or equipment constraints. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scharmann, and carried by unanimous vote.

Future Agenda Items – There were none.

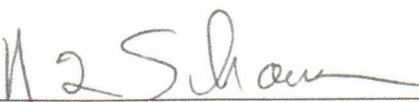
Public Comments – There were none.

Adjournment - With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Heath declared the meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on June 1, 2023, at the Churchill County Administrative Complex, 155 N. Taylor Street, Commissioner's Chambers, Fallon, NV at 1:15 p.m.

Approved By:


Justin Heath, Chairman


Myles Getto, Vice-Chairman


Harry Scharmann, Commissioner