

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF CHURCHILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406

February 21, 2024

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was called to order at 1:15 PM on February 21, 2024.

PRESENT:

Commissioner Myles Getto
Commissioner Harry Scharmann
Commissioner Justin Heath
County Manager Jim R. Barbee
Comptroller Sherry Wideman
Deputy District Attorney Joseph Sanford
Deputy Clerk to the Board Pamela D. Moore
Clerk/Treasurer Linda Rothery

ABSENT:

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the board and public.

Public Comment:

Chairman Getto asked if there was any public comment. Geof Nell said that this county needs to come to paper ballots and hand counts. We need to get rid of the EVS machines because they are corrupt and have been hacked. In 2020, I went to the polling places in Reno and Sparks. I have never seen so many California license plates and commonness of agenda items. I would like to explain that I have obtained information of data to give to the Commissioners to have the Dominion machines that we use removed. Former President Trump asked us to go to paper ballots and hand counts. The information was thrown out and what to look for. Globalist and the World Economic Forum and everything that we are going through is intentional and a guarantee they are going to steal the next election, most likely, if they keep using these machines.

Verification of the Posting of the Agenda:

It was verified by Julianne Ikonen, Deputy Clerk, that the Agenda for this meeting was posted on the 14th day of February 2024, between 3:00 - 5:00 PM at all of the locations listed on the Agenda, in accordance with NRS 241.

Consideration and possible action re: Approval of Agenda as submitted or revised:

Commissioner Justin Heath made a motion to approve the Agenda as submitted. Commissioner Harry Scharmann seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Consideration and possible action re: Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on:

A- January 17, 2024.

The Minutes of the meeting conducted on January 17, 2024 are presented for the board's consideration and approval.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Commissioner Harry Scharmann made a motion to approve the Minutes of the meeting conducted on January 17, 2024 as presented. Commissioner Justin Heath seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B- February 1, 2024.

The Minutes of the meeting conducted on February 1, 2024, are presented for the board's consideration and approval.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Commissioner Harry Scharmann made a motion to approve the Minutes of the meeting conducted on January 17, 2024, as presented. Commissioner Justin Heath seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Appointments:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Presentation by the Rotary Club of Fallon of a \$5,000 donation to Churchill County for the erection of a shade structure at the Cottage Schools.

The Rotary Club of Fallon and Rotary International have provided a donation to Churchill County to assist in the erection of a shade structure at the Cottage Schools. This shade structure will benefit the children attending the County's CARE and SumFun programs.

The CARE and SumFun programs have grown significantly since the relocation to the Cottage School area. Many outdoor activities and play opportunities are provided to the attendees every day. However, there is a noticeable lack of shade over the play equipment and eating areas. This donation is to pay for a portion of the cost of erecting a shade structure at the Cottage School that will benefit all the child attendees as the summer approaches.

FISCAL IMPACT: Donation of \$5,000.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Chelsea Sanford had the following PowerPoint presentation:

COTTAGE SCHOOL SHADE PROJECT

Rotary Club of Fallon

Chelsea Sanford said she was here on behalf of the Fallon Rotary Club along with Darrel Hook who is the President Elect of the Rotary Club.

WHY FALLON ROTARY PROJECT?

THE ROTARY CLUB OF FALLON IS A GROUP OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHOSE AIM IS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES AND BETTERMENT AROUND THE WORLD. THE MEMBERS OF THIS ROTARY CLUB ARE BUSINESS, PROFESSIONAL, AND COMMUNITY LEADERS IN CHURCHILL COUNTY COMMUNITY WHO MEET REGULARLY TO PLAN AND IMPLEMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES AND CONNECT WITH OTHER PROFESSIONALS.

THE ROTARY CLUB OF FALLON SERVES THE CHURCHILL COUNTY'S TOWN OF FALLON, WHICH IS A RURAL AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY. CHURCHILL COUNTY HAS A POPULATION OF ROUGHLY OVER 25,000 PEOPLE AND THE MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD ANNUAL INCOME OF \$56,335, WHICH IS LESS THAN THE MEDIAN ANNUAL INCOME OF \$64,994 ACROSS THE ENTIRE UNITED STATES.

LET'S MAKES AN IMPACT ON LOCAL KIDS.



The Rotary Club is a group of community leaders and businesspeople who have the goals of serving our community and making it better. When thinking of Churchill County, a lot of times it is more agriculture as you can see by the photos. This year, Rotary wants to focus on more local projects and make an impact on our local kids. Rotary would like to donate money to help the kids. Our submitted project is to help the grade school children of Churchill County. We want a safe, comfortable and fun area for the children to eat and play in.

SITUATION

This submitted project is to serve the grade school children of Churchill County, Nevada, by providing a safe, comfortable, and fun area for children to eat and play in. The Churchill County's parks and recreation department provides an after-school program called CARE at the historic Cottage Schools. The CARE program serves about 70 children, and there's a waiting list. The rural community has few and very limited after school options, and CARE serves all parents of the community and their children. There are children from all ranges from social and economic classes of the community- from elected and appointed leaders to convicted felons- that attend and participate in this program. The Cottage School was built in 1939 and in 2007 was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

We would like to build upon the heritage and tradition of the Cottage School with the much-needed services provided by the CARE program and create a shaded eat and play area for the children while they continue their educational journey. A cool and shaded area with seating for the children to comfortably eat their meals and snacks would enhance the lives of the children.

The Cares Program is an after-school care facility that is run by the county. It has great employees. There are over seventy children at the facility and there is a waiting list.

Churchill County does not have too many after-school care programs. It is very difficult to find care. One great thing about the Cares Program is that it serves a diverse group of people in the community and all of our kids go to the same place. The Cottage Schools house the Cares Program at this historical site, which was built in 1939 and, in 2007, it was added to the National Register of Historical Places. Rotary would like to build upon this heritage and tradition by improving this area with a shade structure for the kids to eat, play, and enjoy their time.

PROBLEM



There is a lot of dirt as you can see. This is an older photo, but this is what it looks like as of Sunday.

PROBLEM



Most of the kids are huddled under the tree. The whole dirt lot is basically unused.

////

////

PROBLEM



We would like to add a little shade structure. We want them to be able to play under it on sunny days, there can be tables to eat at, as well. We want to convert the dirt lot into a shaded area.

THE PROJECT AND HOW IT FULFILLS THE
MISSION AND GOALS OF ROTARY.

The project is a multipurpose shaded area that would provide a safe, comfortable, and fun area for children to play and eat in while attending the CARE program at the historic Cottage School. The area will include converting a dirt, hot, and unusable lot into a shaded concreted play area for kids to eat at, play games, and do crafts outdoors. The shade structure will have picnic tables to assist the children to enjoy the outdoor area even on the hottest days in the summer.

The Rotary Club of Fallon's mission is to implement community service in our community, emphasize on improving the lives of children. Converting a sunny, dirt lot into a usable and pleasant eating and play area would better the lives of the children of Fallon.



The Fallon Rotarians and community want to help in this one area. The community knows there is always money involved. We have worked with the Parks and Recreation Department. They are on board to help make this beautiful and to make it a nice, shaded area. The Parks and Recreation Department can do in-kind, as they can help erect the structure. I did not know that you needed an engineer to approve the project. Jorge Guerrero was able assist me with this unique sub-section of government.

The above picture represents the type of structure we want for the space and it can be angled accordingly. There are other shade structures in the county like this that have worked well for us. The quote is for all costs. The Fallon Rotary Club is going to help install the structure to try and cut down costs. We already have the picnic tables; they will be ready to use once the structure is up.

////

THE COMMUNITY BEING SERVED AND HOW THE PROJECT WILL BE USED, AND
THE ANTICIPATED RESULTS

I am a mother of two (2) small children in the Fallon community. My children participate in the much-needed CARE program in Churchill County which provides after school care to children aged 5 and up. The CARE program is wonderfully run providing care to over 70 children every day. However, the outside play area at the CARE's cottage schools leaves much to be desired. I often see a crowd of children seeking shade under the limited tree area, while a sunny blank area remains vacant. The kids would rather eat inside the school or on the limited shade grass area, than sit at sunny and hot tables.

As a mother, Fallon community member, and Rotarian, I would like to see if we can improve this Cottage School/CARE area. A large shade structure installed in the open area would allow children to comfortably play, have meals/snacks, and overall improve the otherwise unusable area of the property. The shade structure will have new, kid friendly picnic tables to assist the children to enjoy the outdoor area even on the hottest days in the summer.

The Fallon Rotary Club was able to raise \$2,500.00 that we will donate to the project. Churchill County gave its approval, and Rotary District 5190 donated and matched the funds of \$2,500.00. The total to present to you is \$5,000.00.

PROJECT INVOLVEMENT AND MONEY



CC PARKS AND REC

The CC Parks and Recreation Department of Churchill County will money in kind for this project.



FALLON ROTARY

The Rotary Club of Fallon will donate \$2,500.00 to this amount and will also provide some manual labor for installation of this shaded multipurpose area to save cost.



CC PARKS AND REC

Churchill County is planning to contribute to improve this area.



ROTARY DISTRICT 5190

Fallon Rotary Club will apply for a Rotary District 5190 Grant of \$2,500.00 for this project.

The Rotary Club of Fallon's mission is to implement community service in our community, emphasize on improving the lives of children. Converting a sunny, dirt lot into a usable and pleasant eating and play area would better the lives of the children of Fallon.

Let's make a tiny oasis for the kids.

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

County Manager Jim Barbee said that he met with Jorge Guerrero and there is an existing budget and budget authority to move forward with this project, so the board would simply be approving the receiving of the grant and the project could get started.

Commissioner Justin Heath made a motion to accept the donation by the Rotary Club of

Fallon and thank them for their support of the community. Commissioner Harry Scharmann seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

A. B- Consideration and possible action re: Update of current activities, plans, or actions related to the Bureau of Land Management's Carson City District.

Kim Dow, District Manager, 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.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

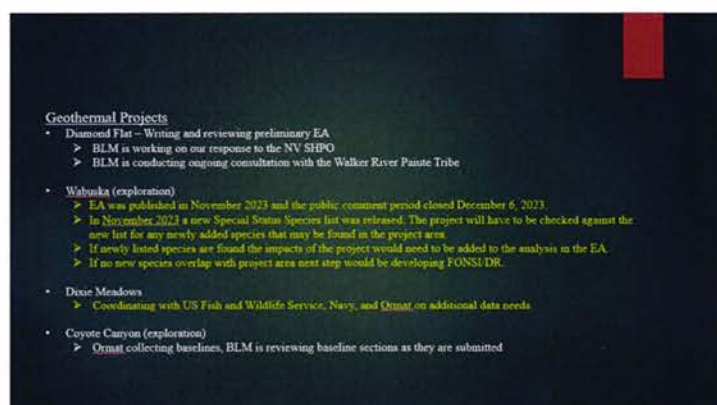
FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

Shevawn Sapp, Acting Stillwater Field Manager, had the following PowerPoint presentation:

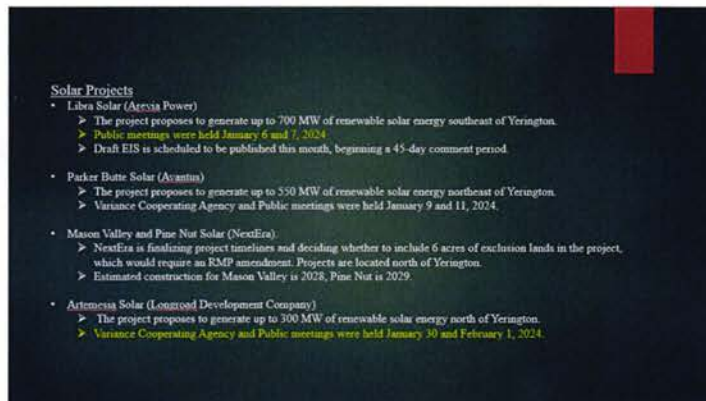


Shevawn Sapp said she is here to go over some projects that BLM is doing in the area.

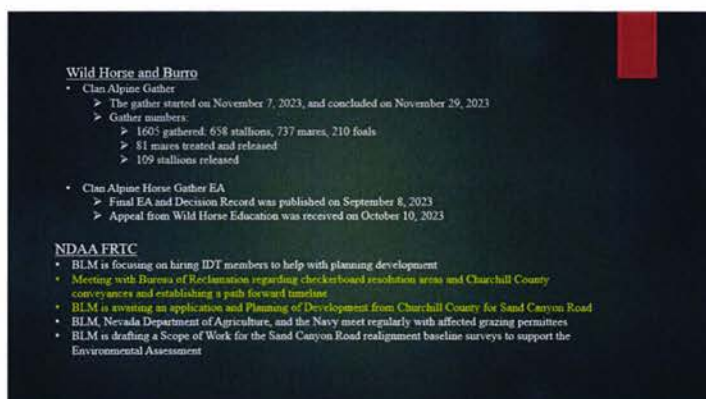


The first projects are the Geothermal projects. We are working on a project in the Diamond Flat area that is the low priority. We are working with the Walker River Tribal Counsel for consultation. The Wabuska project had an E.A. published in November 2023. We are working on some special status species issues that presented themselves towards the end of last year with the state. Dixie Meadows is a project that is under construction and has been put on hold

because we are working on an E.I.S., as well as the Navy and Fish & Wildlife format developing some additional data for the area. Coyote Canyon is in the process. We are working on the E.A. and the baselines.



The Libra solar project is one of the largest solar fields that could possibly be developed in the State of Nevada. We had public meetings on January 6 and 7, 2024. The main comments we received from those public meetings was the traffic that was being generated by the construction of the solar plant. This was the biggest concern. The contractor that is working on the E.I.S. is working on those issues currently. Parker Butte Solar had public meetings on January 9 & 11, 2024, so we are working with the various cooperating agencies on this. Mason Valley and Pinenut are projects that are just getting started. We are having to amend our RMP for these two projects. These projects will not start construction until late 2028 and 2029. Artemesia Solar is in the early stages and we have already started public meetings at the end of January and the first part of February.



The next projects are the wild horse and burro programs. We had a gathering in November of 2023. We gathered 1605 horses. Out of these, we had 658 stallions, 737 mares, and 210 foals, with 81 mares treated with birth control and released. There were 109 stallions released, as well. There was an appeal from Wildhorse Education, but it was dismissed.

The next projects include the NDAA, which is the Naval withdrawal. We will continue to meet with the Bureau of Reclamation regarding the checkerboard resolution areas in Churchill County and the conveyances of establishing a path forward on those checkerboard areas. The BLM is also waiting on an application in planning for development of Sand Canyon Road in Churchill County.

Commissioner Scharmann asked if they had started on the guidelines for the checkerboard. Shevawn Sapp said there are a lot of details that must be ironed out, so they have started on it, but it will be a fairly long process. County Manager Jim Barbee said, if what you went over was approved in December 2022, what kind of timeline is there on the direct conveyances? They are pretty cut and dried. Shevawn Sapp said there are environmental assessments that need to be done and, on a project this large, it is very time consuming. She said that is probably like two years down the road. County Manager Jim Barbee said that it is probably not a timeline that the county accepts.

Mr. Barbee said I have seen some direct conveyances done in Lyon County, about three years ago, and they were done within 6-8 months of the approval. The law is written with a fair number of shells, including how it can be supported and funded through SNPLMA (Southern Nevada Land Management Act) funds. We are requesting that you find a better and quicker way to get this done. We have development and ground that has been limited for access with the expansion of the Naval base and that is to offset that on the economic side for the county. Mr. Barbee said we are more than open to working with the BLM in doing everything we can but we push from the other side of the table, as well. We would ask that be given a little more scrutiny and help. Shavawn Sapp agreed with Mr. Barbee that she wanted things done as quickly as possible too. Commissioner Scharmann said he thought the environmental and cultural assessments were to be done as the properties were sold. Shavawn Sapp stated that it was in process now, they are just not completed. The conveyance from Congress needs to be signed and, once that happens, the property exchanges but the actual environmental work will still need to be done. Mr. Barbee said, if one was the checkerboard (part of the sale) and the other is the 14,000 acres in direct conveyance to Churchill County, this is within the checkerboard and that is why we think it should qualify for the funding of the SNPLMA, because of how the SNPLMA identifies that it is checkerboard. This is a lawyer argument, but these are two separate items listed under the law.

////

////

////

Vero Fiber Optic Line

- Vegas to Reno, project is being managed by the BLM NVSO with local office support - across 3 BLM offices- Carson City, Battle Mountain, and S. NV Districts
- Proposed action crosses 8 counties: Washoe, Storey, Lyon, Churchill, Mineral, Nye, Esmeralda, and Clark
- 450-mile buried fiber optic line
- Approximately 58 acres of linear ROW
 - An amendment to the project Biological Opinion (BO) is ongoing. The amendment will include Yellow billed cuckoo and southwestern willow flycatcher. The BLM is expecting the impact to those species to be no effect. The amended BO is expected within the next few weeks.
 - The 30-day public comment period for the preliminary EA closed on January 10, 2024.
 - The BLM and environmental contractors are revising the EA based on input from the public.



Shevawn Sapp said, as you know, we always have the large Vegas to Reno race that comes through all the counties from Las Vegas to Fallon and up through Reno. We are working on the application. The state office is working on it as well as the other districts that are involved. There will be several other large races in the area in the coming year and there will be information to come.

The fiber optic line has been in the works for a couple of years and the E.A. was published and we had the public comment period starting December 12, 2023. We are working on revising the E.A. according to the public comments.

Green Link West-being managed out of the NVSO with support from office

- 477-mile transmission line between Reno and North Las Vegas
- Spans portions of Clark, Nye, Esmeralda, Mineral, Storey and Washoe Counties
- BLM anticipates release of the Draft EIS for 90-day public review and comment period in mid-2023
- BLM will publish a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register announcing the review and comment period
- Notification will also be made to local media and to parties on the project mailing list
- BLM National NEPA Register (link to project)
<https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2017391/510>



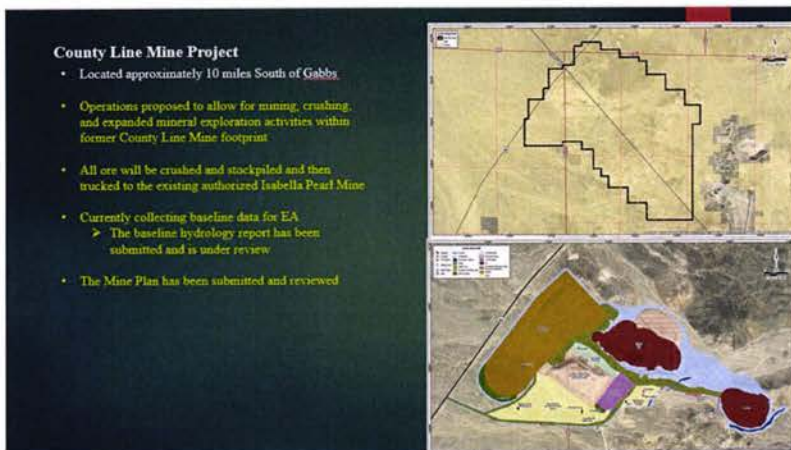
Green Link is another project that has gone on for a while. We are still working through the environmental assessment on this. It is another ongoing project that we are working on the details of. This is the Las Vegas to Reno project.

////

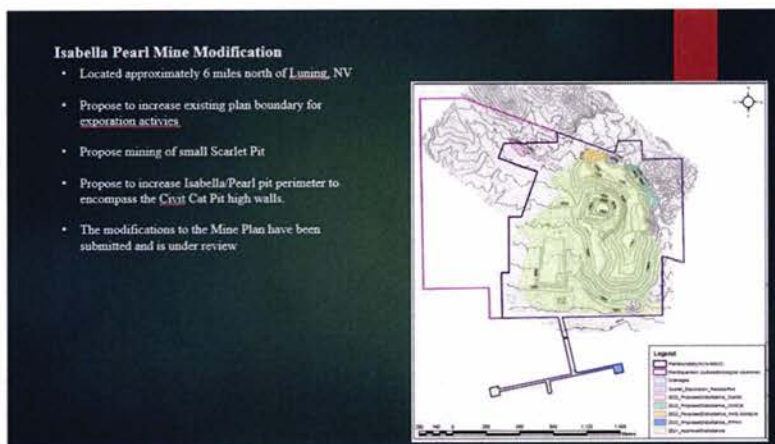
////

////

////



We have a couple of mines in the area that have presented new mining plans. The first is Country Line Mine, this is an extension of Isabella Pearl. We are developing the E.A. on the baselines and reviewing the plan.



The other project is another extension of the Isabella Pearl mine. We are looking at the modification of the plant mine and Isabella Pearl is working on the environmental process on that and the baselines. These two projects are basically in the same process timeline.

Commissioner Bus Scharmann asked about the first mine that was talked about and if it was the one that is ten miles south of Gabbs. Shevawn Sapp, Acting Stillwater Field Manager said that they were all near the Isabella Pearl mine.

Chairman Getto asked if there was any public comment but there was none. This item was presented for informational purposes only and no action was taken.

C- Consideration and possible action re: Application for community support funding, in the amount of \$3,000, for the Lahontan Valley Claybreakers.

A copy of the Application for funding submitted by the Lahontan Valley Claybreakers is provided for consideration. The 2024 season runs from March 2024 through September 2024.

The Claybreakers strive to continue educating youth in Churchill County about gun safety, trapshooting, and teaching life skills. This Application has been reviewed by the County Manager for completion of required materials and the criteria appropriate to warrant county funding (such as: non-profit status, funding sources, community benefit, etc.). Prior county support for the Claybreakers has ranged from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per year since FY16.

FISCAL IMPACT: +/- \$3,000.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: The county has a line item budget for miscellaneous community support items. As of the date this report was prepared, the Miscellaneous Grants line item has \$11,125 remaining for FY24.

FUNDING SOURCE: Community Support / Miscellaneous Grants (100-401-70300).

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Pat Whitten thanked the board for allowing them to apply for community support. She also thanked Commissioner Bus Scharmann and Commissioner Justin Heath for their service to Churchill County. Pat Whitten said that last year the program was a huge success. We have returning shooters that usually start with the club in the fourth grade. We divide the kids by grade, not by age, so they are competing against their own age.

We held the Nevada State Youth Shoot. There were shooters from Las Vegas, Carson City, and Fallon. There was a California Youth Shooting group that attended, and there were over 150 kids that participated from Northern and Central California. They love coming to Nevada because of the different backgrounds in Nevada. They feel like they are shooting off the mountain and that any minute there might be a plane flying in and landing or the jets flying over. It is a different experience that they really like.

Over the years, the biggest obstacle has been the purchasing of ammunition. Two years ago, we ordered a pallet, which has 112 flats/cases of ammunition, which used to cost \$6,000.00. Last year, the pallet cost \$10,000.00. I write and apply for a lot of grants. We are anticipating about forty shooters coming back. I am always searching for ammunition but also advice from other clubs. I ran into someone from the State of Washington that has a youth group and he said that trap shooting is one of the fastest growing sports in youth because you don't have to be a jock to participate in shooting. The man from Washington said everyone shoots, everyone commits, and everyone has the same chance. The most important thing is that there are no benchwarmers in trap shooting. They are always recruiting coaches.

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

Commissioner Harry Scharmann made a motion to approve funding in the amount of \$3,000 in FY24 for the Lahontan Valley Claybreakers. Commissioner Justin Heath seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

D- Consideration and possible action re: Approval of a Service Agreement with Cashman Equipment for maintenance of the county-owned and operated generators, in the amount of \$16,125.00.

Over the past several years, Churchill County has utilized Cashman Equipment as the vendor to perform the service on the county-owned and operated generators. The \$16,125.00 cost is split equally between the Public Works, Planning & Zoning Department (\$8,062.50) for service on the generators at the various lift stations and the backup generators at the Moody Sewer Treatment Plant and Sandcreek Water Treatment Plant and Facilities and Grounds (\$8,062.50) for the various backup generators at the facilities. The scope of work performed by Cashman is outlined in the proposal. The proposal is an increase of \$1,765.00 (12.3%) over the 2023 Maintenance Agreement.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$16,125.00.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: The service being provided is for the maintenance of backup generators for the various systems and buildings should there be a power outage. This service assures that all generators are in peak operating condition so that no service is lost during an outage.

FUNDING SOURCE: County General Fund (Facilities & Grounds) Contracted Services in Water/Wastewater Budget (Public Works, Planning & Zoning).

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Chris Spross, Churchill County Public Works and Planning, made this presentation as outlined above.

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

Commissioner Justin Heath made a motion to approve the Service Agreement with Cashman, in the amount of \$16,125.00, for service of the county-owned generators, to be split equally between the Public Works, Planning & Zoning Department and Facilities and Grounds. Commissioner Harry Scharmann seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

E- Consideration and possible action re: Approval to publish a legal notice for the final public comment to locate the secondary water treatment plant in the 100-year floodplain.

This is the 7th step of the 8-Step process to construct the secondary water treatment facility in the 100-year floodplain. The Notice of Early Public Review was issued in the Lahontan Valley News on January 22, 2024, and allowed for 15 days of public comment on the construction of the facility in the 100-year floodplain. There were no comments received during this period. The second to last step of this process is to publish the Notice of Explanation of Project Located in a Floodplain, which gives the public an additional 7 days for final public comment on the proposed project location. The date of publication for this notice was February 9, 2024, with a public comment deadline of February 19, 2024. No comments were received, so the project construction can move to Step 8, which is implementation of the project using County Code Title 19, Floodplain Management Ordinance.

FISCAL IMPACT: Less the \$200.00.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: Cost of advertising in the newspaper at \$109.46.

FUNDING SOURCE: 760-000-14000 - Projects under Construction.

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Chris Spross, Churchill County Public Works and Planning, made this presentation as outlined above.

Commissioner Scharmann asked if they were going to change the 100-year floodplain. Chris Spross said that since he has been here, the Carson Water Subconservancy District has been under contract to evaluate the current floodplain. Since 2017, there was no flooding like everyone was anticipating. There were some hick-ups with some of the agencies that we are involved in, as a part of that, we have a draft of what the floodplain will look like but there have been some changes that require some additional modeling, so this has not been made public because it will change. It is difficult to say that they might pull this out of the floodplain, it is likely, but I must work with the current firm's plans that we have, because right now is the timeline for our design, so we are operating as if this was in the floodplain. By the time we get to design, this may be pulled out of the floodplain and then the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water has no questions or concerns and we don't have to make any adjustments. The consultants do most of this work.

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

Commissioner Harry Scharmann made a motion to approve publishing a legal notice for the final public comment to locate the secondary water treatment plant in the 100-year floodplain. Commissioner Justin Heath seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

F- Consideration and possible action re: Approval of the issuance Notice Award for the Churchill County Public Defender's Office Tenant Improvement Project (PWP-CH-2024-181) to Miles Construction as the lowest responsible bidder, in the amount of \$595,260.00.

New regulations have directed Churchill County to add additional public defenders and support staff to serve the community. The Public Works Department has drafted a conceptual layout of the required space in the commercial strip mall at 101 N. Maine, the same complex that is currently under renovation for the Sheriff Annex. Staff solicited Requests for Proposals for the anticipated work based on the conceptual design. The county received 3 bids and, after thorough review of the proposals, determined that Miles Construction was the lowest responsible bidder. The contract value includes \$75,000 in contingency funds for any unexpected issues that may arise.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$595,260.00.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: Cost of construction is \$595,260.00.

FUNDING SOURCE: Building Reserve Fund.

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Chris Spross, Churchill County Public Works and Planning, made this presentation as outlined above.

Chris Spross said that at the January meeting he had requested approval to begin the solicitation process for the tenant improvements at 101 North Maine. The reason for that is because of the mandate being handed down by the Department of Indigent Defense Services (DIDS) requiring additional Public Defenders. The board approved that, so the staff generated some design drawings and a scope of work. We solicited the project and posted it on the Churchill County website and directed people to that. We had a mandatory pre-bid meeting and three general contractors showed up for that, as well as a few subcontractors. At the time of bid on February 13, 2024, three bids were received.

After reviewing the bids, we had to eliminate the low bidder due to inconsistencies and missing documents from their bid proposal, so we did not award the contract under those circumstances. We then went to the second bidder, who is Miles Construction. The bid has about a \$100,000.00 difference in price. The bid price is \$595,260.00, which includes \$75,000.00 of contingency money so I do not have to continue to ask for more money in change orders. The building was built in the seventies so we don't know what we might encounter. The motion says that the contract needs to be signed by the County Manager as well as any change orders.

Commissioner Heath asked why the cost was so high for this project. Chris Spross said we are doing a big scope of work. The carpet and tile will be torn out, the ceiling will be removed, the exterior doors and the interior doors will be replaced. Walls will be moved around; the inside will be completely repainted. We will stucco and paint the exterior; the shake roof façade will be replaced. Everything adds up. Some of the doors will be security activated with a FOB. The front desk people can buzz in someone or the Public Defender can come up and get someone, as well. There will be no direct access. A few walls will be added to create office space for the Alternate Public Defender. It adds up to a fair amount of work. The proposal that I put together was for about \$900,000 but it came in at the \$595,260.00 amount, so it was a pleasant surprise. County Manager Jim Barbee added that this was all part of the mandate with the Department of Indigent Defense Services (DIDS) Board relative to compliance on the Public Defenders side. That portion of the building, when it is completed and the Public Defenders move in, we will be charging a lease fee to them. We were told by DIDS that they could reimburse us on the lease charge. So, over time, we will retain some of that bid amount but it won't be in a short amount of time.

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

Commissioner Justin Heath made a motion to issue a Notice of Award for the Churchill County Public Defender's Office Tenant Improvement Project (PWP-CH-2024-181) to Miles Construction as the lowest responsible bidder, in the amount of \$595,260.00, and to approve the County Manager to execute a Contract and any change order for the same. Commissioner Harry Scharmann seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Letters Received:

A- Nevada Division of Environmental Protection's request for Release/Spill Information for the Gibson Distribution Mobile Source Release I-80 at mile marker 65, in Churchill County, Nevada.

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) requested release/spill information for the Gibson Distribution Mobile Source Release on Interstate 80 at mile marker 65 in Churchill County. The NDEP received notification, on January 9, 2024, of a release/spill of contaminants on Interstate 80. Due to icy road conditions, the driver of a tractor-trailer operated by Gibson Distribution lost control of the vehicle and jackknifed in the median of the interstate. As a result, a saddle tank on the tractor-trailer was punctured and released approximately 60 gallons of diesel fuel to soil. Because this release appears to have resulted in contamination and exceeds limits or quantities established by Nevada Codes, they are required to provide an evaluation of the release. They are required to provide 1 of 2 reports within 45 days from the date of this letter but no later than March 12, 2024.

The information that is provided will be used to ensure that sound decisions are collectively made regarding the release. Every effort should be made to determine the source and location of the release. Additionally, every effort should be made to isolate, contain and remove the source of the release and repair or replace equipment and revise operating, maintenance, and inspection procedures necessary to prevent recurrence of this release.

Community health and safety concerns require that a rapid recovery and remediation effort be made. Cleanup of the site should be as quick as possible. Consulting services should be used when it involves response, assessment, or cleanup of a hazardous substance release that is conducted for a fee and must be performed under the direction and responsible control of a Nevada Certified Environmental Manager.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

B- Nevada Division of Emergency Management's letter to Churchill County regarding its requirement to collect Vulnerability Assessments (VA) and Emergency Response Plans (ERP) from utility companies.

The Nevada Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security provides notification that it must collect Vulnerability Assessments (VA) and Emergency Response Plans (ERP) from utilities no later than December 31 of each year. Utilities are required to conduct a Vulnerability Assessment in accordance with the requirements of the federal and regional agencies that regulate the utility. The Division of Emergency Management pursued utilities compliance through strategic actions, commencing with the annual notification sent to all required submitters on October 31, 2023. A meeting was held on December 3, 2023, which involved collaboration with key entities, including the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN), resulting in coordinated efforts and follow-up assistance sought for non-compliant utilities. Weekly compliance reports were consistently provided to the collaborative group for real-time updates. On December 8, 2023, regional emergency managers received targeted emails, soliciting follow-up assistance for governmental utilities in their regions.

The governmental utilities in this jurisdiction, Naval Air Station Fallon, have been reported to the State of Nevada Public Utilities Commission (PUCN) and the Governor of the State of Nevada for non-compliance.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

C- Nevada Division of Emergency Management's notification that Churchill County has submitted its updated Emergency Operations Plan as required, which has been reviewed, deemed current, and sufficient to meet the needs of the jurisdiction during an emergency or disaster.

The Nevada Division of Emergency Management provides notification that Churchill County submitted its Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), which has been reviewed, deemed current, and sufficient to meet the needs of the jurisdiction during an emergency or disaster.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

D- Consideration and possible action re: Churchill County School District's Augmented Budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024.

The Churchill County School District submits its Augmented Budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024. This is provided for the information of the board and public. Details can be found in the Augmented Budget.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

E- Bureau of Land Management's Final decision for the Bench Creek Ranch Co. LLC for the Mountain Well La Plata and Salt Wells Range Improvement Reconstruction and Maintenance Project.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) provides notification of its Final Decision for range improvement, reconstruction, and maintenance for the Mountain Well La Plata and Salt Wells Range of Bench Creek Ranch Co. LLC. Paul Plouviez of Bench Creek Ranch reported to the BLM Stillwater Field Office that nine range improvements on the Mountain Well La Plata Allotment and three range improvements on the Salt Wells Allotment had been removed by a third party without authorization. This included troughs, pipe fittings, solar power pump equipment, and various related parts. The Churchill County Sheriff's Office was notified of this event, which was the result of a dispute between Bench Creek Ranch Co. LLC and the third party, who had been contracted for livestock operations. The BLM directed the third party to stop the removal of range improvements, since the unauthorized removal of range improvements is a prohibited act.

These range improvements provide stock water and are intended to aid livestock distribution throughout the Mountain Well La Plata and Salt Wells Allotments. The water sources are necessary for livestock management as defined in the grazing permit. Returning these water sources to functioning condition requires reconstruction in places where hardware was removed and maintenance in areas with existing hardware to ensure compatibility between reconstructed and maintained areas. Reconstruction is described as the replacing or rebuilding of an improvement after the normal effects of climate, geologic action, use, design, or construction limitations over an extended period of time, leading to a determination that repairs will cost more than 50 percent of a new improvement that serves the same purpose. The Replacement RIPS, as authorized by this Final Decision, will be reassigned to the permittee with an updated Cooperative Range Improvement Agreement after completion of reconstruction or maintenance of the Kent Well, located in the Mountain Well La Plata Allotment, because it is aging and in need of repairs.

The BLM issued the DMS RIPS EA on October 15, 2023. The unauthorized removal of those range improvements and resolution of the conflict occurred in a timeframe that did not allow the project to be included in the DMS RIPS EA analysis process. For the DMS RIPS EA, the BLM requested input from the public, other agencies, and stakeholders to help identify the scope of the evaluation of potential impacts resulting from the Proposed Action and potential issues related to the project. For this project, the BLM issued a Proposed Decision to approve the reconstruction and maintenance of the Replacement RIPS on December 23, 2023. The BLM received a timely protest from Wildlands Defense (WLD). The letter provided points out the protest and the BLM's responses.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

F- Nevada Division of Environmental Protection's (NDEP) notification that it has reviewed the Second and Third Quarter 2023 Groundwater Monitoring Reports prepared on behalf of the City of Fallon's Maintenance Yard.

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) has received and reviewed the Second and Third Quarter 2023 Groundwater Monitoring Reports prepared on behalf of the City of Fallon for its Maintenance Yard. The report summarizes the monitoring and sampling activities at 14 site monitoring wells conducted on June 7 and 8, 2023. Groundwater levels were reported at depths from 3,356.15 feet above mean sea level (famsl) to 3,955.72 famsl. No dissolved gasoline contaminants (BTEX) remain in groundwater above the U.S. EPA Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) and the State Action Levels (SALS), except for methyl-tert-butyl-ether (MTBE), which exceed the NDEP MTBE Oxygenated Fuel Corrective Action Policy's interim action concentration in groundwater of 20 macrograms per liter (ug/L).

The Third Quarter 2023 Groundwater Monitoring Report summarizes the monitoring and sampling activities at 14 site monitoring wells on September 21 and 22, 2023. Groundwater

levels were reported at depths from 3,956.51 famsl to 3,955.06 famsl. No dissolved gasoline contaminants remain in groundwater above the MCLs and SALs, except for MTBE, which exceeded the NDEP MTBE Oxygenated Fuel Corrective Action Policy's interim action concentration in groundwater. The Third Quarter Groundwater Monitoring Report discussed that monitoring wells MW-10 through MW-12 indicate generally higher MTBE concentrations up-gradient from the site, while analytical data from MW-7, MW-13, and MW-14 indicated lower concentrations of MTBE.

NDEP concurs with the continued sampling schedule. In addition to this concurrence, NDEP requests the construction details of the two municipal supply wells that are currently on-site. The results of the volatile organic compound (VOC) concentration from the two most recent sampling events for each well are due.

The Fourth Quarter 2023 report was due on January 28, 2024. This report is overdue and is requested to be submitted. The First Quarter 2024 results are due on April 28, 2024. The well construction and sampling results should be submitted within thirty days of this letter or March 7, 2024.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

G- Thank you card from Fallon Community Theatre, Inc. for the community support funding provided by Churchill County, Nevada.

The Fallon Theatre provides a thank you card to the Churchill County Commissioners for the funding provided to them. They are appreciative of the donation and all your support over the last few years! Donations like this help to keep this grand old building alive and well.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

H- Nevada Division of Environmental Protection's request for release/spill information for the US Silica Facility located at 10210 Old Highway 40 in Churchill County, Nevada.

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) received notification on February 6, 2024, of a Release/Spill (Release) of contaminants at US Silica Facility located at 10210 Old Highway 40, Churchill County, Nevada. An overfill occurred during recirculation of recycled fuel oil between aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) at the facility, resulting in the release of approximately 100 gallons of oil to the earthen containment area of the tank farm. Because this Release appears to have resulted in contamination and exceeds the limits of quantities established by the Nevada Administrative Code, it is required that an evaluation is provided within 45 days from the date of this letter, and no later than March 22, 2024. One of two reports must be filed in the time frame above:

A. For Releases that have only impacted soil (not groundwater or surface water), have been excavated such that all residual soil concentrations of contaminants are less than state action

levels listed in the NAC, and meet other criteria listed in Attachment A, provide a report that contains all the information listed in Attachment A; or
B. For all other Releases that do not meet the criteria listed in Attachment A, provide a report that contains all the information listed in Attachment B.

This information will be used to ensure that sound decisions are collectively made regarding the Release. Please understand that the release of contaminants can be harmful to human health and the environment and that you may be required to perform cleanup activities related to the release. Every effort should be made to determine the source and location of the release. Every effort should be made to: isolate, contain and remove the source of the Release; and repair or replace equipment and revise operating, maintenance and inspection procedures necessary to prevent recurrence of this Release.

Community health and safety concerns require that you undertake rapid recovery and remediation efforts. Quick response minimizes contaminant migration and helps reduce cleanup costs.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

I- Bureau of Land Management's issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Decision Record (DR) for the Golden Lake Exploration Mine Project in Eureka County, Nevada.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Decision Record (DR) for the Golden Lake Exploration Mine Project in Eureka County, Nevada. Golden Lake Nevada has been authorized to conduct phased mineral exploration-related activities within a 949-acre project area that would create up to 34.5 acres of new surface disturbance for a total project-related disturbance of 50 acres. Exploration activities would consist of the following: utilizing the existing road network for project access; drilling reverse circulation (RC) and core holes; construction of exploration roads and use of overland travel routes; construction of drill sites, sumps, and a lay-down area; construction of geotechnical test pits and/or trenches; geologic and geophysical mapping; installation and operation of groundwater monitoring wells and hydrogeologic characterization test wells; maintenance of the pre-1981 roads within the project area and the project access roads; installation and operation of a meteorological station; and reclamation of project-related surface disturbance.

The FONSI and DR are available for review at the project's website on the BLM's National NEPA Register.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

New Business:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Adoption of Policy and Procedure Revisions for the Jim Regan Memorial Scholarships.

With prior changes approved by the Board, which moved the Employee Management Committee (EMC) to a County Manager appointed committee, the Jim Regan Memorial Scholarship policies and procedures are also in need of an update. A track changes version of the policy is attached along with the amended version recommended for adoption.

Updates include the use of a County Manager appointed committee to review scholarship applications for eligibility requirements and score them to determine award. The committee will also review budgetary resources provided by the county and the fundraising efforts of the annual Jim Regan Golf Tournament annually to determine the amount available to fund scholarships. The revised scholarship policy allows for only casual employees (as defined in Title 3, 3.08-3) and dependents under age 24 of employees/elected officials of the county to qualify. The reason for exempting other county employees (such as full and part-time regular employees) is due to the provision in Title 3 for Education Reimbursement and/or Advance (3.36-6) which provides up to \$1,200 for regular, part-time or full-time positions seeking to advance their education. Furthermore, the policy allows eligible students to reapply, as long as they meet the requirements and are working toward their undergraduate degree or attending a trade school.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Adopt

County Manager Jim Barbee said, with regard to the Jim Regan Scholarship, there have been some adjustments made to the policies and procedures, bringing them into alignment with the increase in funding that the Commission put forth in the FY24 budget but also with the Title 3 portion where we are compensating employees for college course work. In Title 3, we can reimburse full time employees for college tuition that aligns with their position in the county. When the policy was developed for the Jim Regan Memorial, we identified employees through this but the original intent was for casual employees. For example, if we have student interns that are working for the county and looking at future careers with the county this would be an opportunity to provide scholarships through this program for them. What we found is that the employees were continuing to pay for further education by using this scholarship but we wanted to use the Title 3 side instead. This will separate Title 3 and the scholarship. We can put more funds into the scholarship for employee children/dependents, as well as casual employees with the existing programs for them. We are now requesting approval of this.

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

Commissioner Harry Scharmann made a motion to adopt the Jim Regan Memorial

Scholarship Policy and Procedures. Commissioner Justin Heath seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B- Consideration and possible action re: Advanced Step Appointment of Kim Cecil for the position of Dispatcher.

The Sheriff's Office has been attempting to fill two openings for the position of Dispatcher. During the recent recruitment, an application was received from Kim Cecil, an employee who was a full-time Dispatcher with the county for 13 years. After she left her full-time position, she has continued to work as a Dispatcher in an on-call status for several years. In 2023, she worked over 900 hours for the Sheriff's Office, helping fill in the schedule.

In the past two years, six candidates have been hired as Dispatchers and five of them have not completed their probationary periods, showing the difficulty the county has had in hiring people for this unique and challenging position.

Counting her time in the on-call status, Kim Cecil has over 17 years of public safety dispatch experience, all with our Sheriff's Office. She is well-acquainted and proficient with the duties of the position. She knows our agency, our community, and the standards and policies that pertain to the agency. She is a "super user" of the Spillman software system and with the phone system. As part of the application process, she was required to take the same test as all other candidates and her scores are the highest of the candidates. Her qualifications far exceed the qualifications of other applicants. As such, staff respectfully requests an advanced step placement of Ms. Cecil.

Title 3 of the Churchill County Code (Section 3.32.040) says that initial appointment to a position shall be made at the beginning step of the range. Title 3 also indicates the county board may approve an advanced step appointment within a salary range to:

1. Meet a difficult recruiting problem; or
2. Employ a person who possesses superior qualifications.

Staff believes Ms. Cecil meets both the categories and respectfully requests the Board of County Commissioners to approve hiring her at an advanced step. Because Ms. Cecil was at Step 13 of the pay range when she left her regular employment, staff respectfully requests the board to approve rehiring her at the same step - Step 13 of Pay Grade D44 (\$30.79 per hour).

FISCAL IMPACT: Approximately \$22,337 for a full year.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: The base cost for a Dispatcher (if hired at Step 1) is \$77,526. This amount includes salary and all benefits for a full year. Hiring at Step 13 would result in a cost of \$99,863 (including salary and all benefits).

FUNDING SOURCE: General Fund

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Geof Stark, Human Resources Director, made this presentation as outlined above.

Sheriff Richard Hickox said that the position of Dispatcher is very specialized. It is also very time-consuming to train somebody. For the last five years of being the Sheriff, we have had several people we have hired, started the training, but they cannot complete the training. They have stated that the job is too hard. Kim was a Dispatcher for over a decade before she left for her own personal matters. Kim dispatched for me and she is qualified. Kim has maintained her certifications and knows the systems very well. She is also trained on the phone for out front, if we need that. She provides value to the Sheriff's Office. I am asking that you strongly consider bringing her back at the wage she left at, as this will give us an experienced Dispatcher.

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

Commissioner Justin Heath made a motion to approve the advanced step placement of Kim Cecil to Step 13 of Grade D44 (\$30.79/hour). Commissioner Harry Scharmann seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C- Consideration and possible action re: Approval of a one-time allowance for Tiffany Timmons to carry over excess annual leave.

Pursuant to Title 3 of the Churchill County Code (Section 3.40.010), the county grants annual leave to its regular employees. One provision of the policy stipulates that employees may only carry over a maximum of 240 hours from one calendar year to the next. Any hours in excess of the maximum are to be forfeited at the end of the calendar year. Due to extenuating circumstances, one employee, Tiffany Timmons, was not able to utilize planned annual leave at the end of calendar year 2023. Because of those extenuating circumstances, she ended 2023 with 269.5 hours, an extra 29.5 hours. Staff requests the board approve a one-time waiver of the maximum annual leave accrual for Tiffany Timmons for calendar year 2023. This is a one-time carry over and she must use the excess leave (or convert it to PERS or Deferred Comp, if eligible) by the end of calendar year 2024 or forfeit any excess hours.

FISCAL IMPACT: Up to \$700.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: Ms. Timmons could potentially not use the carried over hours in 2024 but may still qualify to convert excess annual leave hours to PERS or her deferred compensation account. The value of the additional 29.5 hours could be worth up to \$700.

FUNDING SOURCE: Compensated Absence.

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Geof Stark, Human Resources Director, made this presentation as outlined above.

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

Commissioner Harry Scharmann made a motion to approve the carryover of 29.5 hours of excess annual leave for Tiffany Timmons for a one-time waiver of the maximum accrual of annual leave allowed under Title 3 for calendar year 2023. Commissioner Justin Heath seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

D- Consideration and possible action re: Approval of an Amendment to Lease with the Nevada System of Higher Education on behalf of Western Nevada College to accommodate a HRSA Grant.

Western Nevada College (WNC) was awarded a \$2,314,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration (HRSA) to renovate the interior spaces of Pinon Hall at the WNC Fallon Campus. The building will be remodeled to support expansion of the Fallon nursing program, with updated teaching/testing equipment and improved general facilities.

As a part of this grant, WNC is required to utilize the renovated building for this purpose. Failure to comply with the terms of the grant authorize HRSA to obtain reimbursement for the grant funds. To secure this interest, HRSA requires the recording of a Notice of Federal Interest against the property in the amount of its grant. As the building is owned by Churchill County, we must consent to the filing of this federal interest. The Amendment to Lease provided herein requires WNC to operate within the terms of the grant to prevent any risk to Churchill County. WNC is further obligated to secure the release of the Federal Interest over time, as the value of the grant is depreciated.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Joseph Sanford, Civil Deputy District Attorney said this is an amendment to a lease that we currently have with Western Nevada College (WNC), for property that is leased, and this would allow them to utilize the HRSA Grant to expand the nursing program.

Kyle Dalpe, President of WNC, said what we are trying to relocate our nursing program which used to be in one place and we are trying to expand the program. Part of the expansion includes remodeling the Pinion Building currently under lease to Oasis Academy but will be coming back to WNC effective July 1, 2024. We applied for a federal grant and received a \$2.3 million grant. Now we need to have a Notice of Federal Interest on the property for ten years, so if the building were to be sold or go back to the county, the Feds would recover some of their grant money. We have no intention of this but, to make sure, we need to extend the lease for ten years.

There are two parts to this. One part is to extend the lease for ten years through 2037 to accommodate the Notice of Federal Interest. This needs to be signed by the County Manger. We will take this in front of the WNC Board next week for signature and both boards must agree to it. WNC saw an increase in enrollment in the fall of 17%, which is the highest enrollment in more than 12 years. The Fallon campus has had a 25% increase. This is why we need to renovate the building to accommodate the Nursing Program from eight seats to possibly twenty-four in the next few years. Thank you for your consideration.

Commissioner Justin Heath asked if most of the classes for the nursing program were going to be at the campus here in Churchill County or in Carson City. Lisa Gallo Swan, Director of the Churchill Campus, said the classes will be here in Churchill County. First year and second year nursing students in Fallon have eight seats each and we are hoping to increase that to twelve seats each.

Kyle Dalpe said we do share resources. There is some teaching going on here that is mirrored back and forth and we do have funds we received through Senate Bill 375 that we can use to continue the full-time position here and expand full time teaching positions here, as well.

Commissioner Bus Scharmann said that this nursing program has been going on for many years. There was a period that it was not here but we brought it back and I want to acknowledge the work that Kyle Dalpe has done to make it come back. The enrollment increase comes because of Kyle and his hard work. You are also looking at Douglas County and, right now, the Douglas County Campus is operated by the high school, so you are moving college classes back and I want to let you know how much we appreciate your work. Kyle Dalpe said that they were looking at the Douglas campus as the next step as a similar model for primarily nursing but may look at EMS and any other related programs. This keeps it local and frees up space at the Carson City campus. Kyle thanked Mr. Scharmann for the compliment and said that, in my 21 years in Northern Nevada at TMCC and WNC, this job is the hardest job I have ever had but I am having the most fun. He appreciates partners like the county and working together.

Commissioner Justin Heath added he was able to spend his two years at WNC when it was in Fallon and did not have to go to Carson City for any classes. He would like to see this come back because it would help working families trying to commute to Carson. Mr. Scharmann said the nursing program would be that the first year would mainly be able to be done here, but the second year do they still need to go to Carson or Renown. Mr. Dalpe said the main strategy of the nursing program is to move students around, so they can see different level trauma centers and work in different environments but, unfortunately, sometimes that means bigger cities may poach them but they do go get the experience and then come back to the communities where they trained.

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

Commissioner Harry Scharmann made a motion to approve the Amendment to Lease with the Nevada System of Higher Education as presented. Commissioner Justin Heath seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

E- Consideration and possible action re: Approval to relieve Schroeder Law Offices as counsel for United States v. TCID, Case No. 3:95-CV000757.

In 1997, Churchill County intervened in this case related to recoupment of water to Pyramid Lake for excessive diversions and spills that occurred in the 1980s. The county sought to protect its water rights and the interest of its water users. The case is now in the "repayment phase" where TCID provides water to Pyramid Lake in the form of voluntary reductions, sustainability reductions, and Donner Lake water.

The case remains open until repayment is complete, with annual certificates submitted by the Federal Water Master to the court. No activity, other than monitoring, is required. As no active litigation is occurring, staff recommends that Schroeder Law Office be relieved as counsel and the District Attorney's Office substitute as counsel to engage in the monitoring process.

FISCAL IMPACT: Saving on hourly attorney costs.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Joseph Sanford, Civil Deputy District Attorney said, this is a very old case that started in the 1990's regarding potential over use of water from the 1980's by TCID, which was bought by the Pyramid Lake Tribe. As part of the result of that case, TCID provides extra water back to Pyramid Lake in terms of voluntary reductions over time and then a report is provided to the federal water master.

Schroeder Law Office has represented us in this case for 27 years but, at this point, all that happens is the document gets filed once a year and a new report gets sent to us with new information. We are asking the board to relieve Schroeder Law Offices as counsel and the District Attorney's office can provide these updates, as needed.

Chairman Getto asked if the pavement phase was done. Mr. Sanford replied with a no.

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

Commissioner Justin Heath made a motion to relieve Schroeder Law Offices as counsel for United States v. TCID, Case No. 3:95-CV000757 and have the District Attorney's Office represent the county in the same. Commissioner Harry Scharmann seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Consent Items:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Report of the condition of each fund in the treasury and the statements of receipts and expenditures pursuant to NRS 251.030 and NRS 354.290.

A Fund Balance Report is attached indicating the beginning balance, receipts, disbursements, and the ending balance of each fund for Churchill County as required by NRS 251.030 and NRS 354.290.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

B- Consideration and possible action re: Court Services Second Quarter Revenue Report, for the period of October to December 2023, reflecting \$6,600.00 in revenue for the quarter.

Brenda Ingram, Court Services Director, provides the department's Second Quarter Revenue Report, for the period of October - December 2023, for the board's consideration and acceptance. A total of \$6,600 in revenue was collected for the quarter.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$6,600.00.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: Fees collected help offset the costs of providing services.

FUNDING SOURCE: General Fund.

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

C- Consideration and possible action re: Public Works, Planning & Zoning Department's Revenue Report for November 2023 showing a total of \$30,770.12 in revenue for the month.

The Public Works, Planning & Zoning Department submits its Revenue Report for the month of November 2023 showing a total of \$30,770.12 in revenue. This report is provided for the Commissioners' review and acceptance.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$30,770.12 in revenue for the month.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: Fees to off-set services provided by the department.

FUNDING SOURCE: General Fund.

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

D- Consideration and possible action re: Public Works, Planning & Zoning Department's Revenue Report for December 2023 showing a total of \$21,256.56 in revenue for the month.

The Public Works, Planning & Zoning Department submits its Revenue Report for the month of December 2023 showing a total of \$21,256.56 in revenue. This report is provided for the Commissioners' review and acceptance.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$21,256.56 in revenue for the month.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: Fees to off-set services provided by the department.

FUNDING SOURCE: General Fund.

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

E- Consideration and possible action re: Public Works, Planning & Zoning Department's Revenue Report for January 2024 showing a total of \$335,373.42 in revenue for the month.

The Public Works, Planning & Zoning Department submits its Revenue Report for the month of January 2024 showing a total of \$335,373.42 in revenue. This report is provided for the Commissioners' review and acceptance.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$335,373.42 in revenue for the month.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: Fees to off-set services provided by the department.

FUNDING SOURCE: General Fund.

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

F- Consideration and possible action re: Recorder's Monthly Apportionment Report for January 2024 totaling \$22,146.80 in revenue.

Churchill County Recorder, Tasha Hessey, provides her Recorder's Monthly Apportionment Report for January 2024 totaling \$22,146.80 in revenue for the month.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$22,146.80 in revenue.

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

FUNDING SOURCE: General Fund,

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

G- Consideration and possible action re: Building Permit Activity Report January 2024.

Provided for the board's review is the report showing 25 permits issued in the month of January 2024. Included in the 25 permits are 3 single-family-dwelling permits, 5 commercial permits, 1 industrial permit, 0 manufactured home permits, and 4 septic permits.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

H- Consideration and possible action re: Building Department's Revenue Report for January 2024 totaling \$32,158.25.

The Building Department provides its Revenue Report for January 2024 for the board's consideration and acceptance. A total of \$32,158.25 was received for the month

FISCAL IMPACT: \$32,158.25

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

FUNDING SOURCE: General Fund

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

I- Consideration and possible action re: Sheriff's Civil Report for the month of January 2024 totaling \$17,444.00.

The Sheriff's Office provides its Civil Report for January 2024 for the board's review and acceptance. A total of \$17,444.00 was received as revenue for the month.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$17,444.00

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

FUNDING SOURCE: General Fund.

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

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

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

Consider Future Agenda Items:

There were no future Agenda items suggested.

Commissioner and Management Staff Reports:

Chairman Getto reported on the following topics:

- Flew back to D.C. with Jim Barbee and met with Congressional leaders, Senate leaders and board leaders.
- Attended the RTC meeting.

Commissioner Scharmann had nothing to report.

Commissioner Heath reported on the following topics:

- Attended the Stillwater Conservation District Meeting
- Attended the Lahontan Conservation District Meeting

County Manager Barbee had nothing to report.

Comptroller Wideman reported on the following topics:

- Tomorrow we will have our budget hearings.

Civil Deputy DA Sanford had nothing to report.

Deputy Clerk Moore reported on the following topics:

- A Nuisance Complaint has been filed regarding the Alles property at 11800 Fulkerson Road. She is suggesting that the hearing be scheduled for 2:00 PM on March 20th, during the regular board meeting if that meets with the board's approval, which was agreed to.

Sheriff Hickox had nothing to report.

Claims and Payroll Transmittals:

The Claims and Payroll Transmittals were submitted for the board's consideration and approval.

Public Comment:

Geoff Knell said he is expanding on what was spoken of earlier. I found out that the United States Postal Service, under Joe Biden's administration, is changing the mail direction from Reno to Sacramento. I think it is a plan to have our mail-in ballots tainted and compromised. When there are too many hands, things get lost.

Las Vegas ballots were tainted, they mixed up the ballots. Please consider that mail-in ballots would be most likely tainted to falsify the election. I have notified the Comptroller and the District Attorney's office. It's all up to you. Nye County voted to hand count the ballots in 2022. The legal challenges have been stirred up by leftist legal rights groups and won. The Nevada Democrats sent a bill to Governor Joe Lombardo to not allow us to make that choice, to hand count paper ballots. He vetoed the bill. The RNC committee in Nye County went along with it. I tried contacting the Republican site, but they are too busy. The Caucus was outstanding, please put this on the Agenda, we do not have much time, it costs money. Thank you.

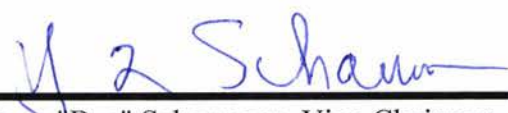
Commissioner Scharmann said that Churchill County has not had a problem with their votes. When you get into Clark or Washoe County, there are some issues. Churchill County has not had a problem with our vote tallies in the past. Mr. Knell said we stand a risk of it. Nye County has double our population, different responsibilities, and a more expanded system.

Know that Dominion went through Mike Lundell in 2020, for millions of dollars. I was there when they took the boxes over to the courthouse. There was an investigation on it and all 50 states and the District of Columbia saying we don't have enough information. I will do more research on that. It is amazing that they don't know if we have any problems. Mr. Scharmann said this is one issue that I agree with you on. A lot of issues you have brought to the board I have not agreed with you on, but this is one I agree with you on, but I don't know what Churchill County can do to leverage the state. Mr. Knell said I know that there is \$8 million that the state offered in grants to pay for the help for the voting system. Also, in the Dominion Contract, there is a clause in it where it would be terminated. I have a copy of it. There was a stipulation in it we can look at it to decide, it is up to you. Chaiman Getto said the decision would have to be put on an agenda.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 PM.

Approved: 
Myles Getto, Chairman

Approved: 
Harry "Bus" Scharmann, Vice-Chairman

Approved: 
Justin Heath, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer


Pamela D. Moore, Deputy Clerk to the Board