

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

NOVEMBER 17, 2020

PRESENT:

**Bob Lucey, Chair**  
**Marsha Berkbigler, Vice Chair**  
**Kitty Jung, Commissioner (via telephone)**  
**Vaughn Hartung, Commissioner**  
**Jeanne Herman, Commissioner (via telephone)**

**Janis Galassini, County Clerk**  
**Eric Brown, County Manager**  
**Nathan Edwards, Deputy District Attorney (via Zoom)**

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:00 a.m. in regular session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerk called the roll and the Board conducted the following business:

**20-0797      AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.**

County Clerk Janis Galassini advised the Board she received an emailed public comment from Mr. Daniel Purdy, which she placed on the record.

A voicemail from Ms. Annemarie Grant was played in Chambers, wherein she alleged her brother Thomas Purdy was hogtied for 40 minutes and asphyxiated by Reno police officers. She asked about safety precautions taken by the Commissioners to meet their obligations under Nevada Revised Statute 211.020 to protect jail inmates. She mentioned at least 76 inmates and 40 staff members had tested positive for COVID-19 at the jail. She said some of the staff had not worn masks as required. She mentioned the poor food quality at the jail. She wondered whether listening to her brother's arrest affected the Commissioners, and she urged them to protect the inmates. She played part of the audio recording of her brother's arrest.

Using the Zoom app, Ms. Elisabeth Gambrell expressed concern about the Gerlach Fire Department (GFD), which she said was understaffed because a staff member recently took a job with the City of Reno. She stated the open position had not been posted although four weeks had elapsed since the employee resigned. She noted Gerlach was 100 miles from the City of Reno and two firefighters were needed at all times to provide ambulance services. She mentioned the GFD had gone from an all-volunteer fire department to a paid fire department several years earlier. She said the funds allocated for interim staff had not been consistent during the prior year and a half. She stated the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) had not provided the volunteer training they

had agreed to provide. She said the GFD had 12 to 14 shifts per month that were unstaffed by firefighters or paramedics. She stated the community of Gerlach was comprised of more than 100 residents and the area covered by the GFD was quite large. She wanted the Board to be aware of the issue before the next TMFPD meeting.

**20-0798**      **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

Chair Lucey noted conducting Board meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic had been challenging. He said the public had been given the opportunity to provide comment by various means. He stated public comments submitted via voicemail would no longer be played and emails would no longer be read in Chambers because meetings were once again open to the public. Individuals could participate in meetings in real time and provide public comment in person or via the Zoom app. He noted public comments submitted via email or voicemail would be placed on file with the Clerk.

County Clerk Janis Galassini confirmed the change in procedure had been noted.

Vice Chair Berkbigler inquired whether residents of Gerlach paid the same fire protection fees as other residents of unincorporated Washoe County.

Commissioner Hartung reminded staff of his concerns about speeding in the residential areas of Spanish Springs and other parts of the County.

Commissioner Herman reiterated Vice Chair Berkbigler's question about the fire department. She advocated for a review of ways to improve the situation. Chair Lucey said the issue would be agendized.

**20-0799**      **AGENDA ITEM 5** Receive an update and presentation regarding NDOT's Spaghetti Bowl Xpress project from Sajid Sulahria, P.E., NDOT Project Manager. (All Commission Districts.)

Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) Project Manager Sajid Sulahria conducted a PowerPoint presentation via Zoom, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. He reviewed slides with the following titles: Reno Spaghetti Bowl; Planned Project Phasing; Selected Alternative's Scope; Investment Needs; Phase 1, SBX Update; Phase 1 "Spaghetti Bowl Xpress"; Project Challenges; Upcoming Construction; Upcoming Traffic Control (3 slides); Virtual Public Meeting; and Contact Information.

Mr. Sulahria thanked the Board for the opportunity to provide an update on the project. He noted current traffic switches were part of the I580 northbound paving work, but traffic would return to the original configuration in December.

Commissioner Hartung asked whether phase 3 included widening U.S. Route 395 North. Mr. Sulahria thought there were some projects north of the Spaghetti

Bowl, but they were between the Spaghetti Bowl and the McCarron Boulevard Loop. He said he was not aware of the entire scope of that project.

Commissioner Hartung noted the map identified the area north of McCarran Boulevard to Clear Acre Lane, so he wondered whether the widening of U.S. Route 395 North would take place at the same time. Mr. Sulahria said he was not involved in the U.S. Route 395 project, which would be scheduled when funds became available. He thought the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) phasing information applied to that project.

Commissioner Hartung brought up an NDOT project on I580 from the Spaghetti Bowl to Moana Lane, which took place two years prior. He asked whether Mr. Sulahria worked for NDOT at that time. Mr. Sulahria responded he worked with NDOT then, but he had only been part of the Project Management Division for approximately two years.

Commissioner Hartung expressed concern that the work and expense of the previous project had been for naught. He noted work had been performed on those areas of I580 and the new Spaghetti Bowl project would change everything once again.

Chair Lucey shared Commissioner Hartung's concerns, asserting the Spaghetti Bowl had been an issue for 20 years. He said the Board appreciated that the State had started addressing the issue. He emphasized he had often expressed concerns about the Spaghetti Bowl being the most dangerous interchange in the State, citing the portion of I580 from the Spaghetti Bowl to Clear Acre Lane as one of the biggest concerns. He asked why that part of I580 was slated to be addressed in phase 3 rather than in phase 2. Mr. Sulahria replied he was not part of the team who determined the project phases, so he was unable to provide information about how they had been determined. He thought phase planning had involved a number of public meetings. He knew freeway operational efficiency would have been considered when planning each phase. He offered to obtain additional information and report back to the Board.

Chair Lucey mentioned NDOT Project Manager Nick Johnson had been involved in addressing a number of issues related to the Master Plan and the Spaghetti Bowl. He asked whether Mr. Johnson could provide additional information. Using the Zoom app, Mr. Johnson noted the information provided was preliminary and subject to change. He said the phases were prioritized through the NEPA process, which included reviewing safety, accidents, and traffic needs. He recognized those needs could change over time. He stated phases could be built out of order if that would better address changing needs. He noted the project was a massive undertaking which would cost almost \$2 billion, so funding availability was also a factor. Phasing the project allowed more time to identify funding sources, but the work could be accelerated if more funds became available. Work could be performed in smaller portions contingent on funding as well. He reiterated the phases were developed through an assessment of aging infrastructure and safety needs, but the plan could change.

Chair Lucey approved having scheduling flexibility based on funding, which could allow the project to proceed more quickly. He expressed concern about the planned 40-year time frame for completion of the project. He mentioned the population growth in the community during the past two years and asked whether NDOT used current population models to plan. He asked about the basis for the 40-year project plan. Mr. Johnson replied plans were developed using the NEPA process. NDOT worked with the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency to forecast population growth and the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) to develop traffic models. He said the data used for projections would be continually reevaluated to ensure the assumptions were still applicable.

Commissioner Herman said the Commissioners posed great questions and received excellent answers.

Commissioner Jung said she needed more information. She believed the County used RTC's gas tax to help accelerate the Spaghetti Bowl project, but there had been no observable acceleration. She questioned the allocation of federal funds to Washoe County versus Clark County. She understood Clark County had a large volume of revenue, but she wanted information about the per capita revenue provided to NDOT by the federal government. She thought northern Nevada's allocation was not nearly enough considering the increase in property tax revenue resulting from the significant escalation of housing costs. She inquired about gas sales in northern Nevada since the County served as an inland port. She requested data to determine how those factors were evaluated and balanced to reflect fluctuations. She understood projects needed to be planned a number of years in advance, but she wanted to review data about how projections were generated and where the donated local gas taxes had gone.

Vice Chair Berkbighler echoed concerns expressed by other Commissioners about the timing of phases 2 and 3. She remembered that projections made while developing the Regional Master Plan had indicated most of the expected growth would be in the north along I580. She thought it seemed more appropriate to address transportation issues in the north rather than the east first. She acknowledged the traffic heading east could be problematic, but there would not be the same level of growth there over the upcoming 10 years. She suggested NDOT should reconsider switching the timing of phases 2 and 3.

Chair Lucey agreed with Commissioner Jung's comments about the disparity in State funding between northern and southern Nevada. He understood Mr. Johnson and Mr. Sulahria worked through the plans as Project Managers, but he hoped either Director Kristina Swallow or Deputy Director Cole Mortensen would participate in future presentations to the Board. He said the RTC worked rapidly and efficiently on regional roads, but that was not the case when the County worked with NDOT on projects. He said Commissioner Jung had correctly pointed out that a significant amount of the County's gas tax had been given to NDOT to help accelerate the project because of its importance to the region. He thought it was not enough to develop a 40-year plan and hope for the best because there were factors other than the engineering and funding challenges. Human value, economic growth, and development were factors that needed consideration

and discussion. He asserted not considering all factors was a disservice to the community and the entire northern part of the state. He noted the residents of northern Nevada relied on the County for the airport, commerce, and health services. The County was home to half a million people, but it was also a catchment for 1.2 million people who moved through the corridor. He thanked Mr. Johnson and Mr. Sulahria for their presentation and reiterated his hope for a more in-depth conversation with Ms. Swallow and Mr. Mortensen in future months.

Commissioner Hartung asked whether the proposed time frames would be acceptable if the project was located in southern Nevada. He said things happened more quickly in southern Nevada, which frustrated residents of northern Nevada.

**20-0800**      **AGENDA ITEM 6** Acknowledge and receive presentation by Carl Hasty of Tahoe Transportation District on the acquisition of the old Incline Elementary School by Tahoe Transportation District for a future transportation hub. Manager's Office. (Commission District 1.)

Carl Hasty, District Manager for Tahoe Transportation District (TTD), conducted a PowerPoint presentation via Zoom, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. He reviewed slides with the following titles: SR 28 Corridor Solutions; Background and Update on Use of Old Elementary School Site in Incline Village; Background Continued; Subject Aerial Map; Enlarged Aerial; Synopsis of WCSD Appraisal; Operations and Maintenance Responsibilities; Map; Next Steps; and Questions.

Mr. Hasty said the eight miles from Sand Harbor to the US Highway 50 intersection would be designed next as part of the efforts to get parking off of the highway. He noted the school buildings were full of asbestos and would need to be demolished and remediated. He said the location had been used as an intercept point during the summer months. He mentioned one common complaint was people taking a shortcut through Country Club Drive to reach Sand Harbor. However, the shortest route would be from Mount Rose Highway, through the roundabout, into the proposed transportation hub.

Mr. Hasty highlighted language in the Operations and Maintenance Responsibilities that demonstrated the long-standing intent to seek a permanent location for the intercept. He reiterated the location had been used as an intercept since 2012, and the map graphic slide was an exhibit of TTD's long-range transit plan. He highlighted the site where he hoped to develop a 250-parking space lot across from Spooner Summit where the trailhead parking was currently located. He stated TTD was focused on the school site opportunity. He stressed the possibilities for future intercept locations were not limited to inside the basin. Potential locations included spaces at the bottom of Mount Rose Highway and in Truckee. He asserted the acquisition of the old school fit the vision for the TTD network. He mentioned the intent for the site was to design and build a facility that worked for transit and other community amenities. One idea under consideration was a judicial center, for which the Sheriff's Office would require one acre of the property.

Vice Chair Berkbigler mentioned residents of Incline Village (IV) did not support a transportation hub at that location. Residents expressed concerns including heavy traffic in the area, apartments across the street, and safety issues caused by students walking to school. She highlighted the heavy tree cover preventing ingress and egress to the highway, so the property was accessed through a side street. She stated turning onto the highway from the side street was difficult and could be dangerous in the winter due to icy conditions. She understood the site had been a school 10 years prior, but the population of IV had increased drastically during the intervening years. She stated short term rentals (STRs) in IV were an additional concern. She mentioned the property had been for sale for at least 10 years and potential buyers had been unable to determine the viability of the investment. She acknowledged Mr. Hasty worked with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) and other groups to procure transportation grants which would allow the site to be used. She cautioned that the map showed an earthquake fault behind the school, noting no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment had been performed on the property. The school buildings had asbestos and would need to be demolished carefully to prevent particles from blowing to surrounding residents. She wanted the Board to be aware of all issues concerning the site.

Chair Lucey asked whether the grants came from NDOT and whether they were Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development grants. Mr. Hasty replied they came from the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program (49 U.S.C. 5339) through the Federal Transit Administration.

Chair Lucey asked whether the transportation hub would be similar to the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) 4th Street Station or the RTC Centennial Plaza, and whether parking would be available so residents could park and take a bus to Sand Harbor. Mr. Hasty responded parking would be available. The scale of the building would be determined by the co-location terms, but the plan was to have a small transit facility which would serve as a transfer point. An environmental review would be predicated by the project concept, which would be developed through the public process. He said Placer County currently served Incline Village and he understood the RTC would launch a pilot program the upcoming year to transport individuals from the valley to IV. The proposed transit facility would be a node into the larger transit system that TTD planned to create.

With regard to Vice Chair Berkbigler's concerns, Mr. Hasty acknowledged the proximity of multi-family dwellings and the safety issues involved with the project. He said those concerns would be addressed as part of the design process. He knew a number of cars often used Southwood Boulevard as overflow parking, so the location had built-in ridership. He said transit facilities tended to be located in higher density areas. The nearby commercial properties had also been part of the consideration. Although the surrounding residential and commercial properties created some safety considerations, he summarized, they were compatible with transit, and the use of transit would help alleviate the number of vehicles on the road.

Chair Lucey asked whether TTD owned and operated their own bus system for the IV area. Mr. Hasty confirmed they operated a seasonal service and a bus system that connected Minden, Gardnerville, and Carson City to Lake Tahoe.

Chair Lucey asked where TTD stored their buses. Mr. Hasty replied they had a bus yard in South Lake Tahoe, and planning work had begun on a property in Douglas County. During the season, he said, they drove buses up to the lake in the morning and back in the evening.

Chair Lucey asked whether Tahoe Truckee Area Regional Transportation provided service for the northern part of the lake and TTD provided service for the southern part from IV to South Shore. Mr. Hasty confirmed that was correct, but TTD service was not currently year-round. The long-term plan was to have a year-round regional system which would connect areas outside the major drive-up markets.

Chair Lucey asked whether TTD had bus stations along State Route 28. Mr. Hasty said no, but they had transit stops at trailhead parking for the new East Shore Trail, and a transit location would be built into the Spooner Summit location when it went into construction.

Commissioner Hartung said the location appeared to have the potential for a park and ride. He expressed concern because there had been discussions about limiting parking for STR renters. He said renters would be able to park in and around the transit facility for the day and use transit to visit destinations like trail heads and Sand Harbor. He asked whether TTD had considered the issue. Mr. Hasty explained TTD had used other overflow and underutilized parking areas during the summer months. He said TTD had an agreement with the Washoe County School District, which allowed overflow parking at the new elementary school when the old school's parking lot was filled to capacity. The new elementary school was not a year-round school, so parking was available during the summer season. He stated TTD tried to use as many existing assets as it could to manage the visitor load until other infrastructure could be developed.

Chair Lucey thanked Mr. Hasty for the presentation and said the Board would anticipate additional conversations about the project.

There was no public comment or action taken on this item.

**20-0801**      **AGENDA ITEM 7**      Presentation of Excellence in Public Service Certificates honoring Washoe County employees who have completed essential employee development courses.

County Manager Eric Brown said Washoe County encouraged life-long learning and the professional development of all employees. He explained the Excellence in Public Service program administered by the Human Resources Department was designed to support employee development and performance. The courses were completed

over a two-year period and demonstrated employees' commitment to continuous personal and professional improvement and Washoe County's journey of excellence.

County Manager Eric Brown recognized the following employee:

**Essentials of SAP for HR Reps**

Misty Best, Public Defender's Office

Chair Lucey noted 2020 had been a challenging year. He encouraged employees to take advantage of training opportunities and thanked them for their commitment to self-improvement.

There was no public comment or action taken on this item.

**PROCLAMATIONS**

**20-0802** **AGENDA ITEM 8** Proclaim the week of November 8th - 14th as National Apprenticeship Week.

Commissioner Hartung read the Proclamation and presented it to Mr. Randy Canale, Apprenticeship Coordinator for UA Local 350 Plumbers, Pipefitters, and HVAC Technicians, and President of the Northern Nevada Apprenticeship Coordinators Association.

Using the Zoom app, Mr. Canale said he represented over 600 registered apprentices in northern Nevada. The apprenticeship programs provided the skilled workforce that allowed northern Nevada to be an attractive place for new business and industry. He noted construction had been identified as an essential occupation, so construction had helped keep the economy going during the COVID-19 pandemic. He thanked the Board for the Proclamation.

Mr. Canale said apprenticeships were not an alternative to college, they were college. He noted all apprenticeship programs signed a Memorandum of Understanding with community colleges; they were earn-while-you-learn programs which taught transportable skill sets that were in high demand.

Chair Lucey expressed approval of the organization and the training programs. He believed this country did not emphasize the importance of the trades. He thought the general mindset emphasized four-year college degrees, but he knew many individuals who were very successful working in the trades. He commended Mr. Canale and his organization for encouraging youths and training them to succeed.

Commissioner Herman thought apprenticeship programs were among the most important things a community could offer young people, including individuals who sought a career change. Apprenticeship programs offered a source of income which was



important, particularly during difficult times. She thanked Mr. Canale for being part of a society that took care of the working class.

Commissioner Jung expressed approval of apprenticeship programs. She agreed with Commissioner Herman's statement about the importance of apprenticeship programs for youth and individuals considering a career change. She said the programs were unique because trainees were paid for their work while they trained, and they received health insurance for themselves and their families. She mentioned individuals with blue-collar jobs had a measurably high level of happiness in their lives and were proud to provide for their families and contribute to their community. She said strong unions throughout the nation made it possible for individuals in the trades to have good wages. People like Mr. Canale and his organization helped individuals working in the trades by representing them at meetings and ensuring they were paid wages commensurate with the amount of training invested in them through apprenticeship programs. She wondered whether the debt incurred by young people who obtained four-year college degrees made sense anymore. She said even the County had perpetuated the trend by requiring higher degrees, which served as a barrier for individuals unable to obtain degrees from academic institutions. She thanked Mr. Canale for his efforts to engage individuals in apprenticeships.

Mr. Canale accepted the Proclamation on behalf of all building and construction trades. He expressed appreciation for the Board's support. He said the Commissioners received packets with invitations to tour training centers, and he noted anyone interested in a tour was welcomed.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Vice Chair Berkbigler, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 8 be adopted.

### **DONATIONS**

**20-0803**      **9A1** Recommendation to accept a donation [\$12,000.00] from DR Horton for the Community Services Department to improve school zone pedestrian safety on Zolezzi Lane; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Community Services. (Commission District 2.)

**20-0804**      **9A2** Recommendation to accept a donation [\$12,266.00] from the Mountain View Montessori School to improve school zone pedestrian safety on Zolezzi Lane; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Community Services. (Commission District 2.)

**20-0805**      **9B** Recommendation to accept donations to Washoe County Regional Animal Services in the amount of [\$11,479.00] retroactive for the period July 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020, to be used for the humane care and treatment of sick and/or injured, stray, abandoned, or at-risk animals received; express appreciation for these thoughtful contributions; and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Animal Services. (All Commission Districts.)

**20-0806**      **9C** Recommendation to accept one-time appreciation gift donations [estimated value of \$1,250.00] from private citizens to the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

Vice Chair Berkbigler read the donations. She noted DR Horton was a good community partner and Mountain View Montessori School was a well-attended school so student safety was a priority; she thanked them both for their donations. She expressed appreciation for everyone who donated to Regional Animal Services for the care of animals, which she felt was an important issue. She thanked residents who made donations to the Sheriff’s Office and other organizations within the County.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Items 9A1 through 9C be acknowledged and accepted.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – 10A THROUGH 10E**

**20-0807**      **10A** Recommendation to approve an Easement Agreement and Easement Deed between Washoe County and Silverado Eagle Canyon LLC, for a permanent, non-exclusive easement (totaling ±28,385 square feet) on APN 532-020-04 in Sparks, Nevada for construction and use of a Slope Easement. Community Services. (Commission District 4.)

**20-0808**      **10B1** Recommendation to accept renewed funding for a Deputy District Attorney for the provision of continuing prosecutor services related to the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Task Force in the amount of [\$125,000 no match] from the Office of National Drug Control Policy award to Nevada HIDTA for the retroactive period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021, with remaining \$47,000 position cost covered by District Attorney General Fund budget, direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget amendments, and retroactively authorize the District Attorney or his designees to sign the grant agreement. District Attorney. (All Commission Districts.)

- 20-0809**      **10B2** Recommendation to accept a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) supplemental grant to the District Attorney’s Office in the amount of [\$76,800; \$19,200 required match], from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Division of Children and Family Service (DCFS) to provide funding to create two intermittent hourly Program Assistant positions, as approved by the Job Evaluation Committee, to coordinate victim services; retroactive from July 1, 2020 through July 30, 2021; direct Human Resources to create the necessary positions and direct the Comptroller to make the necessary budget amendments and retroactively authorize the District Attorney or his designees to sign the grant agreement. District Attorney. (All Commission Districts)
- 20-0810**      **10C** Recommendation to approve a subgrant to the Food Bank of Northern Nevada of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act - Coronavirus Relief Fund (CARES) in the amount of [ \$76,500 ] for Food Assistance, grant period retroactive from October 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020, and if approved, authorize the County Manager to sign the Washoe County Subgrant Agreement between Washoe County and the Food Bank of Northern Nevada; and approve the Resolution necessary for same. Manager’s Office. (All Commission Districts)
- 20-0811**      **10D1** Recommendation to accept a Nevada Division of Emergency Management grant award [amount not to exceed \$80,353.00, no County match required] as administered through the State of Nevada, Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, Federal FY 2020 project number 97067.20, to the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) for payment of one intermittent position as well as equipment and supplies for the retroactive grant term of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2022 and if approved, authorize Sheriff Balaam to execute grant award documentation, and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)
- 20-0812**      **10D2** Recommendation to accept a Nevada Division of Emergency Management grant award [amount not to exceed \$40,125.00, no County match required] as administered through the State of Nevada, Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, Federal FY 2020 project number 97067.20, to the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office Northern Nevada Regional Intelligence Center - FUSION (NNRIC) for the purchase of software license renewals for the retroactive grant term of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2022 and if approved, authorize Sheriff Balaam to execute grant award documentation, and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

- 20-0813**      **10D3** Recommendation to accept a Nevada Division of Emergency Management grant award [amount not to exceed \$80,072.00, no County match required] as administered through the State of Nevada, Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, Federal FY 2020 project number 97067.20, to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Special Operations Division Cyber Crimes Unit for the purchase of equipment and forensic software for the retroactive grant term of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2022 and if approved, authorize Sheriff Balaam to execute grant award documentation, and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)
- 20-0814**      **10D4** Recommendation to approve a Production Incentive Contract between the Reno Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority (RSCVA) and the Regional Public Safety Training Center (RPSTC) to provide an incentive payout to the RPSTC based on new consumed room night production, [No fiscal impact] for the retroactive period of July 01 2020 - June 30 2022. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)
- 20-0815**      **10D5** Recommendation to accept the Can-Am Outlander Max award from the Firehouse Subs Foundation [amount not to exceed \$18,633.25, no In-Kind county match required] to cover new Can-Am Outlander Max 1000Xt & Accessories, for the retroactive grant period of October 24, 2020 through March 1, 2021 and if approved, direct Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments and authorize Sheriff Balaam to execute grant award documents. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)
- 20-0816**      **10E** Recommendation to accept a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration subgrant award from Zero to Three: National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families in the amount of [\$75,000; no County match requirement]; retroactive from September 30, 2020 through September 29, 2021 to support the Safe Babies Court Team program; authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency to execute subaward agreement and related documents; and direct the Comptroller to make necessary budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no public comment on the Consent Agenda Items listed above.

On motion by Vice Chair Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 10A through 10E be approved. Any and all Resolutions pertinent to Consent Agenda Items 10A through 10E are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

**BLOCK VOTE – 11, 13, 14, 15, 16**

- 20-0817**      **AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommendation to appoint either Lane McQuatt or Terri Svetich as one of Washoe County’s members to the Truckee River Fund Advisory Committee. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Terri Svetich be appointed to the Truckee River Fund Advisory Committee.

- 20-0818**      **AGENDA ITEM 13** Recommendation to accept a Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant to the District Attorney’s Office in the amount of [\$164,825; \$55,019 required match], from the State of Nevada Attorney General’s Office to provide funding for a Deputy District Attorney III retroactive from July 1, 2020 through July 30, 2021 and direct the Comptroller to make the necessary budget amendments and retroactively authorize the District Attorney or his designees to sign the grant agreement. District Attorney. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 13 be accepted, directed, and authorized.

- 20-0819**      **AGENDA ITEM 14** Recommendation to approve Amendment #2 to the contract currently awarded to Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality (RISE) (awarded Request for Proposal (RFP) #3130-20) for Facility Operator of Our Place Women and Family Shelter on the Our Place campus to: (1) include a one-time payment in the amount of [\$100,000] that exceeded the original [\$1,983,333] contract amount as a result of an increased need for services due to COVID-19 retroactive for the period of July 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020, (2) authorize an increase in the amount of [\$120,000] to support increased staffing needs, for a total payment amount of [\$2,103,333] retroactive for the term of May 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, (3) authorize an increase of [\$120,000] to the four (4) renewal periods for a contract amount not to exceed [\$1,820,000], plus up to [\$50,000] in possible reimbursements for hotels, (3) if approved authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to executed the amendment and revise the Purchase Order. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.).

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 14 be approved and authorized.

**20-0820**      **AGENDA ITEM 15**      Recommendation to accept Community Development Block Grants from the Nevada Governor’s Office of Economic Development in the amount of [\$144,300, no county match] to increase food distribution in Northern Nevada; and in the amount of [\$30,000, no county match] for two refrigerated trailers for Sun Valley and North Valleys; and in the amount of [\$11,747, no county match] for COVID related supplies for rural senior centers in Washoe County; all three grants are for a period retroactive from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021; and if approved, authorize County Manager to execute grant documents and sign Subgrant Agreements between Washoe County and the Food Bank of Northern Nevada in the amount of \$144,300 to increase food distribution in Northern Nevada, and in the amount of \$30,000 for two refrigerated trailers for Sun Valley and North Valleys and approve the Resolutions necessary for same; and direct Comptroller’s Office to make the appropriate budget amendments. Manager’s Office. (All Districts)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 15 be accepted, authorized, approved, and directed.

**20-0821**      **AGENDA ITEM 16**      Recommendation to accept a Nevada Division of Emergency Management grant award [amount not to exceed \$200,000.00, no County match required] as administered through the State of Nevada, Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, Federal FY 2020 project number 97067.20, to the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office Bomb Unit for the purchase of equipment for the Consolidated Bomb Team for the retroactive grant term of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2022 and if approved, authorize Sheriff Balaam to execute grant award documentation, and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 16 be accepted, authorized, and directed.

**20-0822**      **AGENDA ITEM 12** Recommendation to Acknowledge Receipt of the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts)

Using the Zoom app, Budget Manager Lori Cooke stated this item was significant because it demonstrated effective collaboration within the Budget Division and the County as a whole. She mentioned this meeting would be the last regular Board meeting for Fiscal Analyst Valerie Gilmore, who would retire after 21 years of working for the County. She thanked Ms. Gilmore for her service.

Chair Lucey acknowledged the work performed by the budget team to assemble the budget each year. On behalf of the Board he wished Ms. Gilmore a happy retirement. He noted the job of managing assets and expectations for the entire organization was difficult. He said the County had been successful in managing its finances for many years and it was in large part due to the efforts of the budget team. He asserted the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 was well deserved. He congratulated Ms. Cooke and the Budget Division.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Vice Chair Berkbigler, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 12 be acknowledged.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

**20-0823**      **AGENDA ITEM 17** Public Hearing: Appeal of the denial, by the Washoe County Board of Adjustment of Variance Case Number WPVAR20-0004 (Merritt Rear Yard Setback Reduction) which sought approval of a variance to allow the reduction of the required rear yard setback from 20 feet to 9 feet, 9 inches, to facilitate the construction of a new detached garage on a parcel of land with an existing single-family residence. This constitutes a reduction of 10 feet, 3 inches.

The proposed project is located at 2152 Tanager Court, at the northern terminus of Tanager Court, approximately 400 feet north of its intersection with Wagtail Drive.

The Board may affirm, reverse, or modify the decision of the Board of Adjustment. In doing so, the Board may directly grant all or part of the variance request. Community Services. (Commission District 4.)

The Chair opened the public hearing.

Senior Planner Roger Pelham conducted a PowerPoint presentation via Zoom, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. He reviewed slides with the following titles: Appeal of Denial of Variance Case Number WPVAR20-0004; Request; Vicinity Map; Overhead Photo; Proposed Site Plan; Proposed Structure; Variance

Requirements; Variance Findings of Fact (5 slides); Public Comment; Public Notice; Reviewing Agencies; Recommendation; and Possible Motions (Pages 3 & 4).

Mr. Pelham said the subject site was located in the Eagle Canyon area of the Spanish Springs Area Plan, east of Calle de la Plata. The site was within an area developed with similar single-family dwellings, many of which included extra detached garages. He noted the structure was greater than 12 feet in height; any structure 12 feet or less in height would be allowed in that location. He stated the appellant contended the shape of the parcel was exceptional and the site had a drainage issue on the northeast end of the parcel, both of which created the hardship that justified a variance. He asserted the drainage issue had not created a constraint because it was not on the subject property, and the pie shape of the parcel was similar to others in the area. He said staff received a letter from the neighboring property owner who was in favor of the application request because it would move the proposed garage further away from the windows of his house.

Chair Lucey noted the appellant would be allotted 10 minutes to present their appeal to the Board.

Ms. Jennifer Merritt thanked Mr. Pelham for explaining the application to the Board. She said the requested variance was for her rear yard setback. Based on Washoe County Code, the rear yard setback would be 20 feet from the property line based on the height of the walls. She stated other properties in the cul-de-sac had pie-shaped yards, but their side yards were of equal size while the subject property's west side was 67 feet shorter than the east side. The requested setback would equal 221 square feet. She said she obtained approval from the homeowner's association provided that all relevant permits be obtained through Washoe County and the proposed structure conform to the materials and colors of the existing home. She stated the application had been reviewed by the Spanish Springs Citizen Advisory Board and it had passed unanimously. Other agencies reviewed the request and made no observations. She noted the proposed structure would not obstruct sunlight, air space, or mountain views from surrounding neighbors. She highlighted various reasons why obtaining a 20-foot setback for the proposed structure would increase personal comfort and reduce hardship. She thanked the Board for considering the appeal.

Commissioner Hartung disagreed with the findings of County staff. He thought there were extraordinary circumstances, such as the irregular lot shape. He noted the parcel abutted a 50-foot storm drain easement so the setback would not encroach on any neighbors. He said the square footage of the setback was only the size of a small bedroom. He considered it to be a reasonable request which was not opposed by any neighbors or other reviewing agencies. He stated the proposed use would conform to other properties in the neighborhood.

Chair Lucey agreed with Commissioner Hartung's statements. He viewed the neighborhood using the County's mapping system and observed several homes with secondary detached structures located at the property line or within the setbacks.



Commissioner Hartung believed the proposed structure would benefit the neighborhood because it would be used to store recreational vehicles and all-terrain vehicles which might otherwise be stored in the front yard. He opined the request was a responsible option. Chair Lucey agreed.

Commissioner Herman thought the proposed structure would benefit the neighbor who supported the application by improving their view. She noted the only opposition came from County staff.

Commissioner Jung expressed support for the appeal. She requested a future agenda item to discuss unelected boards. She said it appeared as though requests were most often rejected by advisory boards. She thought citizens would be less likely to follow correct processes when they were excessively cumbersome. She wanted to discuss advisory boards before the next legislative session as she thought they were part of a larger issue in northern Nevada. She believed in property owner's rights, so she would support this request. She commended the appellant for following the correct approval process and Commissioner Hartung for his thorough understanding of his District.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Vice Chair Berkbigler, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that the decision of the Board of Adjustments for Variance Case Number WPVAR20-0004 (Merritt Rear Yard Setback Reduction) for Jamey and Jennifer Merritt be reversed, with conditions included as Attachment D to the staff report, being able to make all five findings in accordance with Washoe County Code Section 110.804.25.

**20-0824**      **AGENDA ITEM 18** Public Comment.

County Clerk Janis Galassini said she received an email from Ms. Diane Heirschberg, which she placed on the record.

On the call for public comment and via the Zoom app, Ms. Diane Heirschberg said she was a full-time resident of Incline Village (IV). She opposed the proposed Tahoe Transportation District (TTD) transportation hub at the site of the former Incline Village Elementary School. She stated she provided a list of objections from local residents to Vice Chair Berkbigler, County Manager Eric Brown, and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. These objections included failure to hold public meetings, public disclosures, or public outreach; failure to consider other available sites; and a misstatement made alleging the support of Incline Village General Improvement District's General Manager Indra Winqest, who indicated by email that the statement of support was untrue. She said the TTD Board heard the objections from residents during their meeting the prior week. The TTD Board created a committee to consider other locations for the hub and ensure public meetings were conducted. She believed TTD needed to consider all available properties rather than focusing on acquiring this property at a bargain price. She claimed

TTD District Manager Carl Hasty acquired funding by obtaining an exemption from holding public meetings prior to receiving funding.

Using the Zoom app, Mr. Daniel Purdy said Chair Lucey announced public comment emails would not be read and voicemails would not be played in Chambers. He stated he was not averse to using the Zoom app to submit his public comments, but he noted many people had no access to Zoom. He alleged his brother Thomas Purdy was murdered in the County jail. He stated he was one of many community members who asked for changes in the County’s law enforcement to hold police officers responsible for their actions. He claimed law enforcement organizations made political donations to the District Attorney (DA), so he believed the DA had no interest in prosecuting police officers. He expressed disdain for the Commissioners’ inaction.

Using the Zoom app, Ms. Annemarie Grant alleged her brother was hogtied for 40 minutes and smothered at the County jail. She stated attempts to silence her efforts to obtain justice would strengthen her resolve, expressing dissatisfaction with the change in public comment procedures. She asked whether the Commissioners cared about the voices of community members who would be unable to make public comment while they were at work. She played part of the audio recording of her brother’s arrest.

**20-0825      AGENDA ITEM 19 Announcements/Reports.**

County Manager Eric Brown noted the Board had an attorney/client session after the meeting adjourned.

In regard to Commissioner Jung’s statements about appointed boards, Chair Lucey requested a future agenda item. He mentioned an issue with wild horses in Hidden Valley, which was a result of the southeast connector project. He was working with Assistant County Manager Dave Solaro and some State agencies to find solutions. The wild horses created a public safety issue for drivers in the Damonte Ranch and Hidden Valley areas. He noted a secondary feeding site had been placed between Hidden Valley and Damonte Ranch, which drew horses toward those neighborhoods. He asked staff to investigate mitigation efforts to prevent migration into the south side of the Hidden Valley community.

Chair Lucey mentioned the County and the Cities of Reno and Sparks would hold a concurrent meeting on November 18 to discuss the issue of homelessness in the region. There would be presentations from community partners and all three jurisdictions. He encouraged everyone to participate.

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**12:05 a.m.** There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

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**BOB LUCEY**, Chair  
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

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**JANIS GALASSINI**, County Clerk and  
Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

*Minutes Prepared by:  
Carolina Stickley, Deputy County Clerk*