

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

DECEMBER 20, 2022

PRESENT:

Vaughn Hartung, Chair
Alexis Hill, Vice Chair
Kitty Jung, Commissioner
Jeanne Herman, Commissioner

Catherine Smith, Chief Deputy County Clerk
Eric Brown, County Manager
Nathan Edwards, Assistant District Attorney

ABSENT:

Bob Lucey, Commissioner

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, Chief Deputy County Clerk Cathy Smith called roll and the Board conducted the following business:

22-0934 AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.

Ms. Elise Weatherly spoke about the death penalty. She opined many crime shows on television were based on reality and thought the death penalty was a negotiable item. She believed when Richard Allen Davis was sentenced to death, it should have been carried out. She spoke about music, theology, and technology. She compared churches to the song "You Give Love a Bad Name" by Bon Jovi. She stated her responsibilities were to pay taxes and do what was right.

Mr. Michael Clark wanted clarification about Agenda Item 5A2. He asked for more information about Agenda Item 9 including details related to the request for proposal (RFP) that was awarded, when the ads were run, what other agencies were involved, and why the County was spending more than \$300,000 to change the name of a department. He opined spending so much money was excessive and a waste of taxpayer money. He believed the County's public relations team could make that change. He stated the work done by the Abbi Agency had the appearance of impropriety and he wanted more information about that before the Consent Agenda was voted on.

Mr. Jim McNamara stated he had been a volunteer at the Cares Campus and with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) homeless outreach. He indicated he read the meeting minutes occasionally and referred to a previous agenda item regarding fining homeless people for camping. He said he did not know the whole situation, but he

had experience at the ground level. He wanted the Board to consider spending time at the shelters. He stated his interactions with the residents of the shelters were sad experiences. He believed homelessness was still failing in the community, despite the money and effort spent on programs for the homeless. He thought fines should not be imposed for outdoor camping until there was more permanent supportive housing to get people off the streets. He felt criminalizing homeless individuals would not help anyone. He understood there were approximately 3800 public housing units and 730 were currently vacant due to barriers to entry. He recommended the County declare an emergency and hold some rules in abeyance so people could be moved out of the Cares Campus and into some kind of housing, which would allow people living in cars and on the streets to move into the Cares Campus.

22-0935 AGENDA ITEM 4 Announcements/Reports.

County Manager Eric Brown introduced the new Government Affairs Liaison Cadence Matijevech. He said it was her first day on the job and welcomed her to the County.

Chair Hartung welcomed Ms. Matijevech and noted she had a long-standing history in the community. He stated Washoe County was blessed to have her on staff.

Vice Chair Hill asked for a presentation about the Built for Zero model. She noted the barriers to entry into shelters were from non-profit organizations and the County did not have the authority to force them to change their rules for entry. She spoke about snow removal in Incline Village and Crystal Bay and thanked staff for their hard work. She said pathway clearing was a concern in those areas, but the County was aggressively working on a solution. She encouraged people in Incline Village and Crystal Bay who were experiencing issues with snow removal to reach out to Washoe 311. She expressed joy about being on the Board the past year and believed so much work had been done for the community. She looked forward to 2023.

Chair Hartung said he looked forward to hearing about housing also, noting he was unaware there were 730 vacant units. If that was correct, he wanted to know why and what the barriers were. He previously asked staff for a speed study to be performed on Omni Drive in Spanish Springs but had not received any information yet. He said the requested study was for the lower end of Omni Drive from La Posada Drive to East Sky Ranch Boulevard. He wanted a speed study conducted on East Sky Ranch Boulevard to Sunset Springs Lane as the road went downhill and he did not know how the speeds could be controlled in those sections. He asserted he continued to receive complaints about the condition of Sunset Springs Lane, and he did not know if that was due to the material the road was built with. If so, he wondered how and when the Board would fund the replacement of that road.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – 5A1 THROUGH 5C1

- 22-0936** **5A1** Approval of minutes for the Board of County Commissioners' regular meeting of November 15, 2022 and special meeting of November 18, 2022. Clerk. (All Commission Districts.)
- 22-0937** **5A2** Acknowledge the November 16, 2021 communications and reports received by the Clerk on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, including the following categories: Communications; Monthly Statements/Reports; and Annual Statements/Reports. Clerk. (All Commission Districts.)
- 22-0938** **5A3** Acknowledge the communications and reports received by the Clerk on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, including the following categories: Monthly Statements/Reports; Quarterly Statements/Reports; and Annual Statements/Reports. Clerk. (All Commission Districts.)
- 22-0939** **5B1** Recommendation to approve Commission District Special Fund disbursement, pursuant to NRS 244.1505, in the amount of [\$10,000.00] for Fiscal Year 2022-2023; Commissioner Alexis Hill for District 1, Commissioner Kitty Jung for District 3, Commissioner Vaughn Hartung for District 4, and Commissioner Jeanne Herman for District 5 recommend a [\$1,000.00] grant each; and Commissioner Bob Lucey for District 2 recommends a [\$6,000.00] grant to the Commissioner Support Team -- a government entity - to support the Washoe County Academy Leadership Academy (WCLA) class project; approve Resolution necessary for same; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary disbursement of funds and net zero cross fund and/or cross function budget appropriation transfers. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)
- 22-0940** **5C1** Recommendation to accept the Washoe County Regional Animal Services' Advisory Board's ("ASAB") Second Periodic Report for FY 19/20 and FY 20/21. The Second Periodic Report includes, but is not limited to, an overview of operations during COVID, the Spay and Neuter Program and Shelter Partnerships. Regional Animal Services. (All Commission Districts.)

Chief Deputy County Clerk Cathy Smith stated Agenda Item 5A2 consisted of communications and reports which included financial reports and statements received by the County Clerk. She explained the documents were placed on the agenda to make them public and part of the record.

There was no response to the call for public comment on the Consent Agenda Items listed above.

On motion by Vice Chair Hill, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Lucey absent, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 5A1 through 5C1 be approved. Any and all Resolutions pertinent to Consent Agenda Items 5A1 through 5C1 are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

22-0941 **AGENDA ITEM 6** Recommendation to acknowledge receipt of the Washoe County Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), auditor's report, and report on internal control for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022 as presented; approve the re-appropriation of [\$35,735,221] for the fiscal year 2023 budget, consisting of [\$19,241,593] for purchase order encumbrances committed in fiscal year 2022 and [\$16,493,628] for spending of restricted contributions and fees; and, authorize the Comptroller to proceed with distribution of the ACFR for public record, as required by law. Comptroller. (All Commission Districts.)

Comptroller Cathy Hill mentioned some financial highlights from fiscal year 2022 and the activity for Washoe County. She stated the County's general fund unrestricted balance increased by more than \$18 million and the fund balance for Child Protective Services (CPS) increased by \$4.6 million. She indicated Washoe County had five major funds and had an additional audit for a major program in the single audit. She informed the County had a financial audit performed as well as a single audit which was the audit of grant awards. The County had more than \$72 million in federal award expenditures compared to \$41 million in fiscal year 2021. She gave special thanks to Bob Andrews and the Washoe County accounting team who continued to work with the new auditing firm BDO USA, LLP (BDO). She mentioned BDO performed the accounting rules and financial reporting which resulted in the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), which was a very complex document. She stated for ease of reading she recommended looking at the notes in the required supplementary information. She asserted Washoe County received an unmodified clean opinion on its audit.

Audit Senior Manager of BDO Heidi Schumann indicated the audit was completed for the County books and records for the year ending June 30, 2022. She stated BDO's opinion was unmodified, and the report was released on December 7, 2022. She noted BDO issued an unmodified opinion on the schedule of expenditure of awards on the same date. She said this was BDO's second year auditing the County and added the County staff was amazing and endured all the questions she had to ask. She asserted there were no significant changes to the processes or accounting assumptions used in the financial statements with the exception of the issuance of a new GASB, GASB 87. She explained this was a financial accounting pronouncement that was implemented with no issues. There were two uncorrected misstatements, meaning they were not material to the financial statements, but there were no corrected misstatements. She said the two uncorrected misstatements were related to the State pension plan, the Nevada Public Employees Benefits Program (PEBP), and would be fixed the following year. It was reported as a fiduciary fund, but it now belonged in the general fund. The second was a small grant receivable that had been over-recorded. She stated BDO issued a clean opinion for the

schedule of federal awards, which had one finding related to the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. The finding was around monitoring the City of Reno and its housing department. She asserted other than that everything else was clean and she enjoyed working with Ms. Hill and staff.

Commissioner Jung thanked Ms. Hill for taking care of the County tax dollars and ensuring accountability. She stated Washoe County had the highest bond rating in the State. She was proud of the bond rating considering some of the issues the County dealt with from 2007 to 2010. Due to its high bond rating, she said any major task the County took on that required it to sell bonds meant the County got more money back and paid less interest, so the money went further. She thanked staff for the clean audit and for maintaining the County's integrity. She asserted many people used the County's bond rating including the Washoe County School District (WCSD) and the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority (RSCVA). She expressed pride that the County had won the Cashman Good Governments Award for the past 15 years for financial acuity, conservativeness, and ensuring people were employed with the County and had wealth they could continue to generate in their professional careers. She stated this work could not be done without the Comptroller and was thankful for Ms. Hill's skillset.

Vice Chair Hill thanked Ms. Hill and noted she was very impressed with how well the audit went. She said the report the Board received was thick. She asked where this report could be found so citizens could review it. Ms. Hill stated it would be on the Comptroller's website once it was approved. Vice Chair Hill encouraged citizens to read at least the summary as it told a story about Washoe County.

Chair Hartung thanked Ms. Hill and her staff for a job well done. He asserted he depended on Ms. Hill constantly. He indicated he had never found a mistake and it was no surprise that a clean audit opinion was received.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Vice Chair Hill, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Lucey absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 6 be acknowledged and authorized.

22-0942 **AGENDA ITEM 7** Recommendation to approve Resolution R22-170 to augment the Utilities Fund in the amount of [\$43,800,000.00] to increase Fiscal Year 2023 budget authority for the South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility 2020 Expansion Project, Guaranteed Maximum Price 4B Construction Manager at Risk agreement; and direct the Comptroller to make the necessary budget amendments. Community Services. (All Commission Districts.)

Chair Hartung asked where the funds came from. Division Director of Engineering and Capital Projects Dwayne Smith stated the funding came from the utilities

fund. He explained there was no general fund funding that supported the expansion of the South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (STMWRF) project.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Hill, seconded by Chair Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Lucey absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7 be approved and directed. The Resolution for same is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

22-0943 **AGENDA ITEM 8** Recommendation to authorize MWH Constructors and KG Walters Construction (MWH&KGW), a joint venture, as the Construction-Manager-At-Risk (CMAR) and approve Guaranteed Maximum Price Agreement (GMP) 4B, to construct the remaining plant expansion package identified as part of the South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility 2020 Expansion Project, in the amount of [\$43,754,555.00]. Community Services. (Commission District 2.)

Chair Hartung commended Division Director of Engineering and Capital Projects Dwayne Smith for using less money than he requested. Mr. Smith replied he had a slide in his upcoming presentation that could change Chair Hartung's opinion.

Mr. Smith conducted a PowerPoint presentation titled STMWRF Project Update December 2022, which included seven slides. He stated Washoe County was responsible for three wastewater treatment plants. The South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (STMWRF) was the largest plant and was constructed in 1991. Since then, many changes had been made in response to new development. He said the major improvements included the 2016 Biosolids treatment, which was a project where the County discontinued sending biosolids to the City of Sparks and the City of Reno's Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (TMWRF). He indicated the County's biosolids were treated and managed at the STMWRF and it had complete control of the facility.

Mr. Smith stated the STMWRF was a regional facility that provided wastewater treatment services to unincorporated Washoe County and the City of Reno. He asserted that staff continued to make appropriate decisions to support the expansion of the facility. He said all these efforts were in response to the demands of new development. He mentioned the County maintained environmental protections and a lot of this project was focused on the water quality the County produced to benefit its reclaimed water quality and its environment. He indicated the County also had to maintain the permanent requirements with the State of Nevada.

Mr. Smith said projects took time and noted the planning and pre-design started back in 2017 because the County knew it had to be ahead of development. He pointed out that substantial completion would be in 2025. He said the focus of all major projects was on funding, schedules, designs, and construction. He indicated the

Construction-Manager-At-Risk (CMAR) project delivery method was selected to take advantage of schedules and value engineering (VE) opportunities that went along with this type of project. He stated the CMAR was a partnership with the designers and contractors. He mentioned the start-up process would take between six to ten months. He acknowledged the design staff and the project manager.

Mr. Smith reviewed the eight contracts for this project and noted the total project estimate was \$122 million. He reminded that all funding came from the utilities fund. He asserted the total project estimate was considerably more than what was originally proposed, but indicated prices were higher due to COVID-19, issues with procurement, elevated labor costs, and supply issues. He said staff had been diligent through a series of VE workshops that focused on efficiencies in construction. Staff listened to their contractor partners to learn better ways to do things, and then the designers captured those recommendations into the designs. He remarked staff focused on the items they needed, not the items they wanted or wished for, noting this was a needs-based approach. He indicated staff had to make cuts along the way and delay items. He commented staff would take advantage of later needs to initiate those pieces.

Mr. Smith expressed excitement about moving away from an older oxidation ditch technology to a 5-Stage Bardenpho treatment process. He stated the old oxidation ditch technology served the STMWRF well and was still used at two other treatment facilities. When the County was contemplating this project back in 2017, it went through a rigorous process to decide whether or not to change its treatment processes. The County decided yes and went with the 5-Stage Bardenpho process. He noted this technology had been around for 30 to 40 years and was being used in a majority of the new expansions across the United States and Europe. He mentioned an advantage of the Bardenpho was that it had an enhanced nutrient removal process, which helped remove phosphorus and nitrogen. He indicated these were some of the key constituents that impacted water quality. He remarked the process was more complicated but there was more control that went into it. More proven technology was utilized in the process, and it was more efficient. He explained it would help reduce operating costs on a per-unit basis as the County moved into the future. He asserted staff expected to see better solids destruction and lower chemical costs per unit. The other advantage of Bardenpho, he said, was that it was flexible, and the County would not be constrained by old technology as it moved into the future. He thanked the Board for its continued support.

Chair Hartung pointed out he asked for this presentation because the issue was near and dear to his heart.

Commissioner Jung spoke about public-private partnerships. She thought it was fortunate staff was able to sit down with the architects and builders to learn about the new best practice. She believed this was the perfect example of working on projects together to get the best-completed projects possible. She spoke about the efforts Chair Hartung had made on his own to research and learn to be a water expert. She asserted Washoe County should be a leader regarding what to do with reclaimed water. She believed Commissioner-Elect Mariluz Garcia would work with Chair Hartung to expand the Board's

relationships with the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). She credited Chair Hartung for forming the partnership with the Nevada Water Innovation Institute (NWII) and thought it was one of the most impactful things the Board had done. She thanked Chair Hartung and Mr. Smith for their expertise.

Vice Chair Hill requested to tour the STMWRF facility. She said she had conversations with many people in the community and the media related to sewer and she believed people were paying attention to this issue. She expressed excitement about seeing the westward expansion of reclaimed water to ensure golf courses and parks were not relying on the Truckee River. She wondered about the timing for that, and Mr. Smith stated that was something the County would see in the next year. Vice Chair Hill expressed excitement about that and thought it would be a significant discussion for the Board in the following year.

Chair Hartung shared he had toured the STMWRF more than once. The first time he toured the STMWRF he accused it of not being a real sewer plant. He explained it was a clean plant and was a state-of-the-art facility in the region. He spoke about Nevada's resource constraints. He thanked Mr. Smith for helping him instill a passion for water. He said it was easy to support a group such as the NWII because of the great work it did. He looked forward to the STMWRF having a research facility attached to it someday. He spoke about saving water by using reclaimed water at golf courses and parks, noting the STMWRF would be able to produce more than 19-acre feet of reclaimed water per day. He asserted that at some point the federal government would require every wastewater plant in the nation to be a class A+ plant. He said he could not give staff enough credit for their work. He thanked Dr. Krishna Pagilla from the NWII, the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA), the Western Regional Water Commission (WRWC), and the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission (NNWPC).

Commissioner Herman said she was proud of what Chair Hartung had done and wished he was in charge of the Lemmon Valley water issues.

Mr. Smith thanked the Board for the kind words about the entire team including Dr. Pagilla.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Vice Chair Hill, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Lucey absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 8 be authorized and approved.

22-0944 **AGENDA ITEM 9** Recommendation to Award Request for Proposal (RFP) No.3198-23 for the Washoe County Health District's Name Change from January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 to The Abbi Agency in the total amount not to exceed [\$324,700.00], and if approved, authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to approve the Purchase Order. Health District. (All Commission Districts.)

Chair Hartung wondered how the decision to change the name came about and if it was approved by the Board of County of Commissioners (BCC) or if it was a joint action of all three boards. County Manager Eric Brown stated it was a joint action of the Reno City Council, the Sparks City Council, and the BCC during the most recent concurrent meeting. Chair Hartung asked whether the Washoe County Health District was under the purview of the BCC. Manager Brown stated no, it had its own board, the District Board of Health (DBH). Chair Hartung questioned whether the BCC chose the Abbi Agency. Manager Brown indicated it did not.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Hill, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Lucey absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 9 be awarded, approved, and authorized.

22-0945 **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation to 1) authorize the creation of one new full-time Paralegal position, pay grade M (Public Defender), as reviewed and evaluated by the Job Evaluation Committee (JEC); 2) authorize the creation of three new full-time Deputy Public Defender III positions, pay grade T (Public Defender); 3) authorize the creation of one new full-time Deputy Public Defender III position pay grade T (Alternate Public Defender); and if approved, direct the Human Resources Department to make the necessary staffing adjustments as evaluated by the Job Evaluation Committee and direct the Comptroller's office to make the necessary net zero cross-functional budget appropriation transfers [Total fiscal impact is \$757,717; net fiscal impact \$-0-]. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

Vice Chair Hill said she looked forward to seeing how the County could better serve the community with these positions. She hoped the Board could get a progress update from the Public Defender in six months. Chair Hartung indicated he would also like an update on the progress.

Commissioner Jung stated she fully supported the Public Defender and the Alternate Public Defender. She thought everyone should be provided fair adjudication for any trouble they were in, and it should not be dictated by the wealth of a person. Commissioner Jung and Chair Hartung thanked Public Defender John Arrascada.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Hill, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Lucey absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be authorized, approved, and directed.

22-0946 **AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommendation to approve the acceptance of a Nevada Cares Campus Charitable Fund Grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada to support Nevada Cares Campus Capital Improvement Project in the amount of [\$1,669,180.00, no match] retroactively effective November 23, 2022-June 30, 2024. Authorize the County Manager to sign award document, and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

Vice Chair Hill expressed gratitude for the generous people in the community. She noted Assistant County Manager Kate Thomas identified that the way for the County to be successful with its homeless programs and getting people housed was through a public-private partnership. She mentioned the Montreux Cares Committee had granted over \$1 million and the Evanstad Foundation granted \$500,000. She thought they were great community partners. She spoke about models throughout the Country, noting communities held annual fundraising events for their homeless programs and stressed the importance of community buy-in. She stated the County was making huge strides with Phase II and Phase III to make the Cares Campus a spectacular place where people could receive the care, treatment, and services they needed as well as find housing, which was a priority of staff.

Commissioner Jung expressed excitement for the work Vice Chair Hill had done with fundraising. She thanked Ms. Thomas who had worked so hard to get the Cares Campus going with little support. She asserted the area along the river was better although she noticed people's patience had decreased. She thought the key to this issue was going to be a regional reframing and said the entire community, including the municipalities, was responsible for helping. She wanted to see a cultural change in the community to ensure children were in school when they should be. She noted when she was growing up her mother knew when she was not in school because she would receive multiple phone calls about it. She thought it was the community's responsibility to ensure children received an education. She stressed the community needed to invest in the most vulnerable as most people were two paychecks away from having to stay at the Cares Campus themselves. She believed this would increase the compassion in the community. She expressed pride for what Vice Chair Hill had accomplished in less than two years.

Chair Hartung congratulated Vice Chair Hill for her work. He spoke about the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada (CFNN) and stressed its importance in the community. He thought people were unaware of how many grants the CFNN administrated or how embedded it was in the community. He dared people to find a more benevolent community than Northern Nevada. He brought up fundraising events that were effective in making a significant difference in the community. He acknowledged local philanthropists such as Jack Reviglio, Norm Dianda, Bob Cashell, and other generous individuals for the great work they did during their lives. He indicated it took significant work to convince people these were important projects. He acknowledged the County had a long way to go and things would never be perfect, but it gave the County something to strive for. He

asserted that without daring to try, nothing would ever get done. He commented the amount of funding was substantial.

Vice Chair Hill thanked the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN) President and Chief Executive Officer Mike Kazmierski for hiring the fundraising team because he believed in the project. She stated the Downtown Reno Partnership (DRP) had been an active participant since the beginning, and the Cities of Reno and Sparks were great partners on the project. She thanked the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for its support. She asserted there was more money to be raised and she wanted to talk to more people who would be interested in assisting. She hoped to have more donations for the BCC to accept in the next year.

Chair Hartung mentioned his statement about Jack Reviglio and wanted to acknowledge the Reviglio family as well. He pointed out Norm Dianda's legacy lived on through Q & D Construction and all the things Q & D did for the community. He asserted these people and businesses gave more and more over the years and in turn the community had given back to them.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Hill, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Lucey absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 11 be approved, authorized, and directed.

22-0947 **AGENDA ITEM 12** Recommendation to approve a Letter of Invitation for the Community Project Funding/Congressional Directed Spending. The Letter of Invitation is stating that in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (P.L. 117-103) the United States Congress has made available a grant to Washoe County for the regional homeless shelter ("Nevada Cares Campus") in the amount of [\$12,000,000; no county match] administered through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. If approved, this item will authorize the County Manager or his Designee to: 1) designate a county representative for the grant process, 2) direct preparation of a project narrative, 3) direct preparation of a line item budget for the project, and 4) complete other required federal forms. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

Chair Hartung asserted Community Reinvestment Manager Gabrielle Enfield had the ability to seek out grants and write successful applications. He stressed that writing a successful grant application was extremely important because there were hundreds or thousands of applications for these grants. He noted this was a massive grant award.

Ms. Enfield commented this specific award was a result of Senator Catherine Cortez Masto and Senator Jacklyn Rosen submitting the project to Congress for the directed funds. She asserted this was a significant award and was identified during the

first year of appropriations. She said the funding would go towards the construction cost of the services building. She pointed out this was the County's first congressionally directed spending. She thanked the Senators for the funds.

Commissioner Jung said Ms. Enfield knew which grants to pursue and thought that was a real skillset. She believed Vice Chair Hill should get credit for this because she talked to people everywhere she went. She mentioned Vice Chair Hill knew how to do the important work that benefited the State and the County. She thanked Ms. Enfield and Vice Chair Hill for the work they did to bring money into the County for vital projects. She asserted Ms. Enfield had a great reputation on Capitol Hill in terms of how to handle the American Rescue Plan Act (APRA). She expressed pride for the work that had been done and indicated people were begging to come to Washoe County and tour the facilities.

Vice Chair Hill thanked Commissioner Jung for the kind words. She stated it was exciting to host a tour of the Cares Campus for Senator Cortez Masto and Senator Rosen in the initial phases before the County had fully taken over the shelter, noting they saw the vision of what the County was going to do. She shared this would fund a building where people could go to prevent homelessness, stating it would help people with rental support and provide resources to prevent them from having to go into the shelter. She thought this building would be a game changer and she could not thank the Senators enough for believing in the local community and seeing the commitment to the project. She expressed excitement about Phase III and thought it would help save lives.

Chair Hartung said he was thankful for the federal delegation and asserted the County could not do it without their support. He expressed excitement that there was no County match attached to the grant.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Hill, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Lucey absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 12 be approved, designated, directed, and completed.

22-0948 **AGENDA ITEM 13** Recommendation to approve allocations of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) for the following projects:

1. Recommendation to approve amended allocation for Project #2 Washoe County Cares Campus Capital in a total amount of \$24,618,706, an award increase of \$3,150,000 over the \$21,468,706 approved by the Board on December 14, 2021. The additional funds will be used for a portion of the funding for Phase III of the Cares campus expansion.

2. Recommendation to approve allocation to fund the purchase of the Real Property at 1240 E. 9th Street, Reno NV in the amount of \$4,800,000 for the purpose of Washoe County use to provide behavioral health services.

And, if approved, direction to the Comptroller's Office to make necessary net zero cross-fund and cross-functional budget appropriation transfers. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

County Manager Eric Brown indicated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds were being used for these projects. He noted the funds had to be encumbered by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026. He informed the allocations were one-time expenditures to support enhanced capacity in the region, especially the \$4.8 million for the West Hills Hospital campus.

Chair Hartung stressed he was highly supportive of this item. He said he did not want a revolving door where individuals were leaving and coming back to the campus. He did not believe the County would be successful unless it could get most of these individuals into some type of program. He asserted with the closing of West Hills Hospital, it was the perfect time for the County to take it over and partner with the Sheriff's Office. He thanked the team and Manager Brown for negotiating this and said the process was not completed yet but was very close. He thought the proximity to the Ninth Street campus was perfect.

Community Reinvestment Manager Gabrielle Enfield explained the first item was an amendment to the existing capital for the Cares Campus to increase the amount to allow for the estimated guaranteed maximum price agreement 2 (GMP 2) so the County could provide for the bidding process. The second item was for the purchase of the property at 1240 East Ninth Street, which was the facility for behavioral health services.

Vice Chair Hill appreciated Chair Hartung's leadership on the West Hills Hospital purchase. She stated there had been a mental health crisis in the State for decades and instead of Washoe County relying on the State, the County had taken the responsibility to support the local community. She said there was no place to help people who needed mental health services. She expressed excitement about Washoe County taking the lead on this project.

Chair Hartung indicated mental health was an obvious issue in the community, and in many cases, people could not be stabilized without being treated for substance abuse first. He asserted many people wanted to be clean and sober but did not know where to go for help and were unsure how their issues had gotten so bad. He thanked staff for being aggressive as a number of people were interested in the facility.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Hill, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Lucey absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 13 be approved and directed.

22-0949 **AGENDA ITEM 14** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

22-0950 **AGENDA ITEM 15** Announcements/Reports.

County Manager Eric Brown wished everyone a happy holiday.

Commissioner Herman mentioned she recently toured the Epic Brain Center with Manager Brown and Assistant County Manager Kate Thomas. She hoped the rest of the Board would have the opportunity to tour the facility. She said she spoke with Commissioner-Elect Mariluz Garcia the other day, and she was signed up to visit.

Chair Hartung said he would like to tour the Epic Brain Center. He mentioned the Board had been invited by the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony to tour the Wounded Souls: Extracting from the Land and Our Spirits exhibit, which was an exhibit on the effects of mining. He stated the Commissioners would have to tour the exhibit in groups of two to avoid having a quorum. He understood it was a moving exhibit and he was interested in taking a tour. He said Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Michon Eben was a wealth of knowledge and she offered to provide tours to the Board. He stated the public could contact the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony's Cultural Resources office at (775) 785-1326 for more information about tours, which were available until March 8, 2023. He noted the exhibit would be open Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and some Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Due to construction, it was important for interested individuals to call the office first.

Chair Hartung echoed Manager Brown stating he hoped everyone had a happy and uneventful holiday.

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11:25 a.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

VAUGHN HARTUNG, Chair
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

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

*Minutes Prepared by:
Doni Blackburn and Lauren Morris, Deputy County Clerks*