

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

JUNE 27, 2023

PRESENT:

Alexis Hill, Chair
Jeanne Herman, Vice Chair
Michael Clark, Commissioner
Mariluz Garcia, Commissioner
Clara Andriola, Commissioner

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

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:

23-0416 AGENDA ITEM 3 Announcements/Reports.

Chair Hill declared she needed to leave the meeting at noon and Vice Chair Herman would assume the gavel if the meeting had not adjourned at that time.

Vice Chair Herman discussed the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) fund which was comprised of money the County received in place of taxes. She opined those payments did not offset the losses incurred by having public lands in Washoe County. She disclosed the County would receive \$4 million in PILT funds in 2023. She commended Governor Joe Lombardo for signing a letter regarding the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Public Lands Rule alongside governors from Montana, South Dakota, Idaho, and some other western states. She wanted to know why she was told her election integrity resolution would be placed on an agenda in July but it had been forwarded for legal review. Chair Hill said she thought there were concerns with the proposed resolution and she would provide further details after Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Nate Edwards had time to review it. She claimed there were questions about whether the resolution could be placed on an agenda due to the Board's rule that anything on an agenda had to be legal. She assured that the Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) on elections that Vice Chair Herman spoke about during the previous Board of County Commissioners' (BCC) meeting would be on an agenda in July. Vice Chair Herman asserted her election resolution had been researched very well and she expected to see it on an agenda. ADA Edwards indicated his office was in the process of reviewing the resolution.

Vice Chair Herman thought the Board should place the responsibility of development review back on the CABs because they represented the voice of the people. She informed she asked the County to provide her with a computer so she could meet with residents and email their questions and comments to County staff, as suggested to her by Commissioner Clark. She reported she received the computer after a few weeks, and she was unable to use it at coffee shops, restaurants, and other places like Commissioner Clark could when he met with constituents. She had been trying to get it fixed for weeks and wanted to access Wi-Fi without having to wait for security updates every time she tried to log in. She felt she did not receive proper support from County staff. She stated staff wanted to go to her house to fix her computer, but she did not want to use it at her house, she only wanted to use it while meeting with residents and business owners. She alleged if the computer was not fixed, she would take it to a friend who owned a computer company so they could fix it.

Vice Chair Herman remarked that members of the public reached out to her to inquire why Commissioner Garcia was still on the Washoe County District Board of Health (DBOH) after she had disclosed her personal, private relationship with Mr. Oscar Delgado at the previous BCC meeting. Vice Chair Herman divulged she looked at all the DBOH agendas since Commissioner Garcia had been on that board and she found no mention of the Community Health Alliance (CHA). She opined there were four other Commissioners whom she did not think had ties to anyone in the health industry and suggested another Board member should sit on the DBOH. Chair Hill interjected to inquire if Vice Chair Herman wanted to request a future appointment to the DBOH be placed on an agenda. She thought it was unfair to accuse Commissioner Garcia of conflicts of interest. Vice Chair Herman commented she was trying to get it on the record that people had asked her those questions. Chair Hill reiterated it was not fair for Vice Chair Herman to use her Commissioner comments to say things that were unjust about fellow Commissioners. Vice Chair Herman said she was sorry if she did that, but she wanted to get answers to people's questions. Chair Hill suggested Vice Chair Herman speak with Commissioner Garcia personally.

Commissioner Clark recalled the previous BCC meeting when members of the community read from library books during public comment. He spoke about organizations and people that had preyed upon children over the years. He professed prisons had to take special precautions to protect people who committed crimes against children from other inmates. He expressed discomfort with the content that was read aloud during the previous meeting. He wanted to defend ADA Edwards for interjecting during those comments and declared ADA Edwards was present to protect the County. Commissioner Clark requested a report from the Library Board explaining why certain books were in the children's section of the libraries and asked ADA Edwards how the Board could go about removing people appointed to the Library Board. He was unhappy with that board and wanted to know why people thought it was okay to expose children to adult content.

County Manager Eric Brown responded to Vice Chair Herman and indicated staff would continue to work to get her laptop to operate outside County buildings. He claimed the laptop did not need to be fixed in her home, but if the computer was having issues connecting to Wi-Fi, it needed to be addressed by staff at a location outside of a Washoe County facility.

Commissioner Clark recounted Governor Lombardo's executive order which aimed to return State workers to pre-pandemic office conditions by July 1, 2023. He remarked he regularly heard from community members who traveled to County offices for help only to learn the individual they sought information from worked remotely. He wanted to know how many County employees worked remotely and if Washoe County was following the Governor's executive order. He inquired if the County verified that remote employees had adequate childcare as residents had reported hearing children in the background during phone conversations with staff. He alleged he knew of a County employee who worked remotely but also cared full-time for their grandchild and he wondered if they dedicated more time to work-related matters or caring for the child.

Commissioner Clark spoke about Commissioner Andriola's request to include prayer during meetings. He thought the Board needed to include all belief groups so every resident of Washoe County felt supported. He mentioned he read an article that claimed that the pilot who previously performed mosquito mitigation via helicopter had retired in response to a major lawsuit. He clarified that the frustration he expressed the previous week regarding mosquito abatement was not directed at District Health Officer Kevin Dick or the health department; it was intended for Manager Brown whom he felt did not give him answers that made sense. He declared he wanted accurate information regarding the mosquito mitigation issue.

Commissioner Andriola thanked County staff for following up on her request for prayer during meetings and Commissioner Clark for bringing to light the importance of representing the entire faith community in Washoe County. She looked forward to staff inviting faith representatives to meetings. She shared Commissioner Clark's concerns regarding the materials read aloud during the previous BCC meeting. She divulged she reached out to both the chair of the Library Board and Manager Brown to request a presentation about how books were chosen and the format to which the Library Board was legally required to comply. She thanked ADA Edwards for stepping in when necessary during meetings to protect not only those in the Chambers but the entire County.

23-0417 **AGENDA ITEM 4** Presentation and update by Washoe County Health District regarding the Vector Borne Disease Prevention Program, including mosquito abatement, and current rates of mosquito populations in our communities.

District Health Officer Kevin Dick conducted a PowerPoint presentation which was placed on file with the Clerk. He reviewed slides with the following titles: Vector Borne Disease Prevention Program; Vector-Borne Diseases; Are midges the same as mosquitos; Mosquito Surveillance; 2022 Arbovirus Risk: Area 1; Area 2; Area 3; Area

4A; Area 4B; Identifying Potential Health Risks; Integrated Vector Management; Methods of Treatment; Personal Protection.

Mr. Dick listed vector-borne diseases that were spread by insects, specifically mosquitoes. He mentioned the Washoe County health district had an integrated intervention program. He displayed an image comparing mosquitoes to midges. He noted the species responsible for spreading West Nile Virus (WNV), St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE), and Western Equine (WE) was the culex tarsalis mosquito, specifically the females because they were the ones that fed on blood. He said the health district had a surveillance program that used New Jersey light traps in wetlands and areas with standing water to assess the mosquito populations. He explained the collection data charts: Area 1 - North Valleys; Area 2 - Spanish Springs; Area 3 - Rancho San Rafael and Hidden Valley; Area 4A - South Reno; Area 4B - Washoe Valley. He said a lot of mosquito activity was currently occurring in Washoe Valley. The cool weather and rain were helping to suppress the mosquito population, but he anticipated an imminent change in the weather. He shared that all the mosquitoes trapped by the health district were submitted to the Nevada Department of Agriculture Animal Diseases Laboratory for testing and none were found to carry WNV, SLE, or WE. Surveillance of catch basins was also being conducted; the County had over 25,000 catch basins as part of the storm water system. The water collected in them was a breeding location for mosquitoes. He spoke about the design standards for new developments which were part of the prevention program. He said the health district offered mosquito fish free of charge to people who had ponds or water features not connected to natural waterways. Mosquito fish ate larvae and helped suppress mosquito populations.

Mr. Dick reviewed the treatment methods noting the preference was larvicide because it was specific to mosquito larvae, so it was environmentally benign. Larvicide prevented mosquito larvae from maturing into adults and did not affect other species like adulticide which used insecticide and killed other flying insects. He said insecticide was used when the populations of tarsalis females were very high in specific areas. He reported the use of aerial applications was delayed this year, noting that a press release was issued in May regarding the delay. The health district had been working to secure a new aerial application company. He hoped the aerial application would take place in early July. He spoke about efforts to expand the health district's capabilities, so a drone was purchased for larvicide applications in the future. Staff was working on getting Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) licensing and approval for the drone.

Chair Hill thanked Mr. Dick and County Manager Eric Brown for assembling this presentation on short notice.

Vice Chair Herman asked whether the company used by the health district was Alpine Helicopter. Mr. Dick said it was.

Commissioner Clark thanked Mr. Dick for the presentation, noting the temperature and water helped to avoid many issues but the temperatures were expected to hit triple digits soon. He asked for confirmation that aerial spraying was the first line of

defense against mosquitoes. Mr. Dick thought the front-line defense was for people to take their own protective measures, but larvicide was helpful in suppressing mosquito populations. He noted the Washoe County health district was the only one in Nevada that regularly practiced aerial applications for mosquito abatement.

Commissioner Clark observed people in the County were used to the abatement efforts. He said the mosquitoes were swarming near his home close to Washoe Lake. He shared that the pilot notified the County in February and he asked why a solution had not yet materialized. Mr. Dick acknowledged the ingredients for many mosquitoes were present this year. He said it was not the health district's intention to stop aerial mosquito abatement. Staff started looking for a solution when they received the notification late in February. He was pleased that the new individual bought the helicopter and intended to do that type of business. He indicated other companies were not interested in providing this service for the County when the health district put the work out for bid in the past. Staff started pursuing the drone option while looking for another helicopter company when the retirement notice was received. The health district was working on the FAA approval for the drone and the helicopter pilot was procuring the appropriate insurance and licensing. He said the press release was issued in May specifically because people learned to expect the aerial applications. He asserted there was no deception or misinformation, noting the County used the helicopter for larvicide applications, not for insecticide applications. Commissioner Clark clarified he was not talking about willful deception, but he needed transparency. He wanted to ensure the community received all the facts.

Chair Hill thanked Mr. Dick for his presentation and wished him luck with the drone program and finding a pilot.

23-0418 **AGENDA ITEM 5** Appearance by Dwayne Smith, Washoe County Engineering and Capital Project Division Director, to provide an update regarding the Washoe County Utility including rate studies, facility planning efforts, capital projects and regional collaboration opportunities.

Division Director of Engineering and Capital Projects Dwayne Smith conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Washoe County Utility Update – June 2023; Washoe County Sanitary Sewer and Reclaim Water Utility; Capital Projects (2 slides); Regional Utility Planning; Sewer and Reclaim Water Connection Fee and Rate Study (2 slides); South Truckee Meadows Reclaim Water Management (3 slides); Thank You.

Mr. Smith wanted to provide a brief but important update on Washoe County's utility and give the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) a look ahead at what staff would be bringing forward for consideration in the next few months. He affirmed that the County's approach in support of all its utility efforts was to find the best way to resolve problems and to do so at the lowest cost. He noted this was done for the benefit of both current and future utility customers.

Regarding capital projects, Mr. Smith highlighted the South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (STMWRF) expansion. He remarked the project's cost was approximately \$122 million and it began in 2017. He indicated a lot of planning went into the project and it was in the middle of construction. He thanked the BCC for approving the last guaranteed maximum price (GMP) contract which was in the range of \$43 million. He observed this would carry the project forward through completion in 2026. He shared there were still some challenges with the project from a procurement standpoint, but he thought the project team was amazing and he looked forward to implementing some of the elements that would come through this project. These elements would include increased water quality, lower impact on the environment, and a reduction in overall operating costs. He pointed out that the current fiscal year (FY) budget for the overall utility for capital projects was about \$70 million, and the five-year was over \$150 million. He acknowledged this was a big portion of the current FY's capital budget.

Mr. Smith discussed the Steamboat Lift Station replacement and noted Steamboat was the largest lift station in the South Truckee Meadows. He observed the Board had previously approved the final steps in closing the escrow process a few meetings prior. He indicated staff looked forward to completing this project by the end of 2024.

Mr. Smith spoke about Effluent Master Planning, stating good work had been done in the South Truckee Meadows over the last number of years with regard to how the County managed effluent water. He noted he would speak about this in more detail at the end of the presentation. He declared the planning work that had been done affirmed the County's approach to identifying issues and dealing with cost-effective solutions to bring the best opportunities for customers. He asserted the County spent a lot of time on the planning efforts both within the utility and in working with its partners, the Cities of Reno and Sparks.

Phase II of the Hidden Valley Reclaim Water Pipeline project, Mr. Smith observed, would take water over to the Hidden Valley Golf Course and the Hidden Valley Regional Park. He asserted this would help take the park to the next level. He mentioned the three different service territories, South Truckee Meadows, Lemmon Valley, and Cold Springs, noting South Truckee Meadows was the largest service territory and Lemmon Valley was the smallest. He noted that as projects were being completed in the South Truckee Meadows, the focus was shifting to Cold Springs and prepping for the next levels of development there. He declared the Cold Springs Water Balance project was really important for the County to be able to make the correct capital investments.

Regarding planning, Mr. Smith reported there were two big things the County was working on along with the City of Reno and other partners. The first item regarded how the County and the City of Reno could realign their service territories with their collection systems and wastewater treatment plants. Currently, there were City of Reno customers in the South Truckee Meadows that fell within the County's service territory, the STMWRF. He observed there were challenges between paying fees, managing permits, and making sure all the pieces were covered which placed a lot of stress on staff. He asserted it was complicated for new developers because they did not know if

they were supposed to pay the connection fees through the County or the City of Reno. He indicated tracking these things was challenging for staff and customers. He mentioned design standards, stating that if a customer was in the City of Reno but fell within the STMWRF service territory, it was unclear which design standard they would use. He shared a first step had been taken in the Cold Springs area with the Stonegate development, stating Washoe County entered into an agreement with the City of Reno to ensure that the sewer collection system within the annexed area of Reno would become the County's from day one. This meant the County would review all the plans, would be responsible for the collection system, would receive and treat the flows, and would be responsible for the management of the effluent and the billing of the customers. He declared this was very much in alignment with the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA), which was a regional water purveyor.

Mr. Smith continued, stating the County wanted to use this approach in the Lemmon Valley area as well. He reminded there was a small treatment plant in Lemmon Valley and noted it functioned very well. He assured that the County met its permit conditions and requirements for that wastewater treatment plant. He acknowledged there were additional costs to protect from flooding. He mentioned the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) was going through a process to equalize the requirements and permitting standards for all treatment plants in the State of Nevada. He observed that while the County met all the permit requirements, staff could see there would be a point in the future when the County would have to expend a lot of money in the Lemmon Valley area to change some of its operating processes. Due to these reasons, staff had been focused on how to eliminate the Lemmon Valley plant, replace it with a lift station and a force main, and convey both existing flows and future flows over to the City of Reno's facility in Stead for treatment and management. He indicated there would be items brought to the Board for consideration over the next number of months to affect this approach and result.

One of the things that occurred back in 2014 with the downturn in the economy, Mr. Smith remarked, was that the BCC deferred the sewer connection fees for new development to the point in the process when the certification of occupancy (C of O) was issued. He shared that this created challenges and problems for staff. As part of the service area transfer work, he intended to bring a change in the deferral process to the Board for consideration. With this change, the sewer connection fees would be collected at the time the building permit was issued.

Regarding the connection fee and user rate study, Mr. Smith affirmed that the capital program and the planning were funded through the enterprise fund, not the general fund. He recalled a presentation he provided to the BCC the previous year in which he focused on effluent management. He observed that Chair Hill had identified some additional fiscal concerns that staff took into consideration. They also had to wait for the final GMP for the STMWRF expansion and had to consider what some of the increased operating costs would look like. He reminded that they were dealing with inflation and higher fees across the board, so they wanted to capture all of that into the final version of a connection and user fee study.

Mr. Smith highlighted the schedule for implementation. He stated that staff, along with their consultant, would come back to the BCC on August 22 to present the recommendations for the utility's new user rates and connection fees. He indicated staff was currently reviewing the draft report and making final adjustments. He asserted the recommendations would allow the County to maintain its existing user rates while increasing the connection fees for new development. He shared that some of the City of Reno's connection fees increased by almost double and in some cases even more than that. He said the County was working to establish what its new connection fee would be per equivalent residential unit (ERU), noting it would not be double, but it might be a 40 to 45 percent increase. He shared there would be a recommendation to remove the reclaim water rates and operate both the reclaim and the sewer utility under one umbrella and one cost structure and capitalize on those savings. Through that process, staff would need to update the ordinances that drove that. During the August 22 BCC meeting, staff would seek the Board's approval and initiate the business impact statement. He observed that per the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS), whenever rates were raised, staff conducted community outreach and spoke with residents to ensure they understood why a connection fee increase was being recommended. He reiterated that only connection fees would be increased, not user rates. He said his goal was to get all of this completed by the end of this calendar year. He pointed out that the first reading of the ordinance was scheduled for November 14, with the second reading and adoption scheduled for December 12.

Mr. Smith acknowledged the importance of having the connection fee and user rate study updated. He observed that staff was committed to going through this on a five-year cycle to ensure they stayed ahead of it. He stated the current connection fees were \$5,850 per ERU and went up \$50 per year, and the current user fees went up by the consumer price index (CPI). He asserted that as the County went through the process of raising the connection fee, the \$50 per year increase would probably be eliminated; however, the user rates would continue to increase annually by the CPI.

Mr. Smith mentioned the benefits of the enhanced increase of effluent, specifically in the South Truckee Meadows. He reminded the Board of his previous presentation in which he discussed how to maximize reclaimed water, encourage and incentivize existing customers to use more, and create opportunities for new customers, all while preserving Truckee River water and Nevada groundwater for drinking and higher purposes. He declared the user rate study would help set the stage for how the County moved forward, and zeroing in on the reclaim water rates was a big part of this strategy.

Mr. Smith expressed appreciation for the Board's continued support as staff moved through these processes. He acknowledged the cost of the capital projects but noted staff had been planning for them effectively. He looked forward to coming back to the BCC on August 22 to give the presentation on the user rate and connection fee study and engage in a detailed conversation with the Board. He said he would be prepared to answer more specific questions about the staff recommendations and how the County would move forward under the rate structures. Chair Hill thanked Mr. Smith for his presentation and was excited about expanding reclaim water services to the community.

Commissioner Clark wondered how staff arrived at the decision to increase the connection fees. He recalled the current connection fees were about \$5,800 and would be raised 40 to 45 percent which would amount to an approximate increase of \$2,600. He declared there was a housing shortage and housing affordability was nonexistent and inquired why this needed to be done now. He thought this was supposed to be placed on the developers but would ultimately fall on the citizens. He believed it was another hidden tax for the citizens in a struggling economy. He asked again why this had to be done now. Mr. Smith responded that connection fees had not been raised and that decision would be up to the Board. He explained he would be making that recommendation based on both the study and the need for the future of the utility. He reminded that the City of Reno had implemented connection fee increases and said this was based on ever-increasing capital costs to provide for the capacity to treat and manage both wastewater and reclaimed water. Unfortunately, he said, these costs were not decreasing. He observed it had taken a little bit of extra time, but he was happy staff had gone through this process. He asserted that staff had turned over every stone and he thought they owed that to the development community because they would be paying it initially. He acknowledged Commissioner Clark was right; it was the customers who were buying those homes at the end of the day. He thought it was the goal for the County to minimize the fees as much as possible while providing the highest levels of service necessary to meet permit requirements and the future of the utility. He assured the County did not take this lightly which was why it had taken more than a year. He said he was never happy to have to raise fees, and he was glad the user fees would not have to be raised as they were attributed to existing customers. Commissioner Clark expressed concern that there were individuals in the Chambers who were trying to build affordable housing in the City of Reno, and in their case, the connection fees were increasing by about \$2,600.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – 6A1 THROUGH 6I1

- 23-0419** **6A1** Acknowledge the communications and reports received by the Clerk on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, including the following categories: Executed Contracts; Revised Annual Budgets; and Presentations. Clerk. (All Commission Districts.)
- 23-0420** **6B1** Recommendation to 1) approve roll change requests, pursuant to NRS 361.765 and/or NRS 361.768, for errors discovered on the 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 secured and unsecured tax rolls 2) authorize Chair to execute the changes described in Exhibits A and B and 3) direct the Washoe County Treasurer to correct the error(s). [cumulative amount of decrease to all taxing entities \$113,710.93]. Assessor. (All Commission Districts)
- 23-0421** **6B2** Recommendation to 1) approve roll change requests, pursuant to NRS 361.765 and/or NRS 361.768, for errors discovered on the 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 unsecured tax roll 2) authorize Chair to execute the changes described in Exhibit A and 3) direct the Washoe

County Treasurer to correct the error(s). [cumulative amount of decrease to all taxing entities \$186,743.96]. Assessor. (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3, 4)

- 23-0422** **6B3** Recommendation to acknowledge receipt of the annual report of the Assessor's Technology Fund (IN20280), a fund created by NRS 250.085 and Washoe County Ordinance 1300 for the acquisition and improvement of technology in the Assessor's Office, which has projected expenditures in Fiscal Year 2024 of \$3,015,000. Assessor. (All Commission Districts.)
- 23-0423** **6C1** Recommendation to: (1) award a bid and approve the Agreement to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder for the Sparks Justice Court Socially Distant Courtroom, located at 1675 East Prater Way in Sparks, Nevada, [staff recommends Group West Construction, Incorporated, for the base bid plus alternates 1 and 2 in the amount of \$285,210.00]; and (2) approve a separate project contingency fund [in the amount of \$28,521.00] for the total construction cost not to exceed \$313,731.00. Community Services. (Commission District 4.)
- 23-0424** **6C2** Recommendation to approve an Easement Deed - Drainage Easement between Washoe County and Silverado Village Eagle Canyon, a Nevada Limited Liability Company (LLC), and an Easement Deed - Slope Easement between Washoe County and Silverado Eagle Canyon Ranch, LLC for permanent, non-exclusive drainage and slope easements located on Washoe County's North Spanish Springs Flood Detention Facility property, Assessor's Parcel Number 532-020-04, to allow for the construction, operation and maintenance of drainage and slope easements related to adjacent residential developments. All future maintenance costs will be the responsibility of Silverado Village Eagle Canyon, LLC, and/or their assigns. The total easement area is approximately 10,295 square feet and identified in the attached easement deeds. Community Services (Commission District 4.)
- 23-0425** **6C3** Recommendation to approve the following easement deeds between Washoe County and the City of Reno to support the Plumas Street and Urban Road Sidewalk and Drainage Improvement Project: a temporary construction easement totaling ±3,044 square feet on Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 019-140-12 part of Washoe Golf Course; a temporary construction easement totaling ±8,004 square feet, a drainage easement ±180 square feet, and a public use easement totaling ±3,423 square feet on APN 019-140-13, part of the Reno Tennis Center for no charge pursuant to NRS 277.053. The project will benefit the Washoe Golf Course by adding an accessible pedestrian route. Community Services. (Commission District 1.)

- 23-0426** **6C4** Recommendation to approve an Easement Deed - Grant of Easement granting a permanent, non-exclusive easement (totaling ±60 square feet) to United States Geological Survey (USGS) on Assessor's Parcel Number 049-752-08, for no charge pursuant to NRS 277.053, in the Southwest Truckee Meadows Planning Area, for the placement of stream gage housing instrumentation to support an existing stream gage located on Whites Creek. Community Services. (Commission District 2.)
- 23-0427** **6D1** Recommendation to accept a renewed Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor (TSRP) grant to the District Attorney's Office in the amount of [\$231,500, \$57,875 cash match], from the State of Nevada Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety to continue funding a Deputy District Attorney IV; retroactive from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023, if approved, direct the Comptroller to make the necessary budget, and retroactively authorize the District Attorney to sign the grant agreement. District Attorney (All commission districts)
- 23-0428** **6E1** Recommendation to approve and execute the Resolution R23-80 levying tax rates, certified by the Nevada Tax Commission, designating the number of cents of each \$100 of property levied for all Washoe County entities for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 pursuant to NRS 361.460. The combined overlapping tax rate is limited to \$3.64 on each \$100 of assessed valuation, pursuant to NRS 364.453. Finance. (All Commission Districts.)
- 23-0429** **6F1** Recommendation to accept three FY23 subgrant awards from the State of Nevada, Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) to support the position and activities of the Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator whose mission is to coordinate regional mental health services for underserved populations: (1) in the amount of [\$57,808.00; no county match] retroactive from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023; (2) in the amount of [\$57,725.00; no county match] retroactive from September 30, 2022 through September 29, 2023; and (3) in the amount of [\$57,807.00; no county match] retroactive from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023; and if accepted, authorize the Director of Human Services to retroactively execute the grant award documents; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)
- 23-0430** **6F2** Recommendation to accept a sub-grant award for the Comprehensive Assessment and Treatment (CAT) 16 Mental Health Placements Program from the State of Nevada Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of [\$50,000.00; no county match] retroactive from January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 to support mental health placements for uninsured, non-Medicaid, and parental custody children; authorize the Director of Human Services Agency to retroactively execute the sub-grant award and

direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)

23-0431

6G2 Recommendation to approve, pursuant to NRS 244.1505, Commission District Special Fund disbursement in the amount of [\$8,600.00] for Fiscal Year 2022-2023; District 3 Commissioner Mariluz Garcia recommends a [\$1,600.00] grant to the Reno Housing Authority -- a governmental entity in the form of a public body corporate and politic for municipal purposes under NRS 315.320 -- to support their mission to provide fair, sustainable, quality housing for low-income families to pursue economic opportunities, become self-sufficient and improve their quality of life; and a [\$1,500.00] grant to Awaken -- a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes -- to support their mission to increase awareness and education surrounding the issue of commercial sexual exploitation; and a [\$1,500.00] grant to Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada -- a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes -- to support their goal of providing a residence camp over the summer to 45 girls who would otherwise not be able to attend; and a [\$1,500.00] grant to the Holland Project -- a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes -- to support their mission to produce art, music, and culture that is "by young people, for young people"; and a [\$1,500.00] grant to Tu Casa Latina -- a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes -- to support their mission to provide humanitarian forms of relief for women, men, and children who are victims of crimes, domestic violence, abuse and trafficking in Northern Nevada; and a [\$1,000.00] grant to Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada's St. Vincent's Food Pantry -- a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes -- to support the Sun Valley Food Pantry's goal of purchasing additional carts to increase family and senior shopping; approve Resolutions necessary for same; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary disbursements of funds. Manager's Office. (Commission District 3.)

23-0432

6G4 Recommendation to approve a Letter of Intent for the FFY 2023 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG). Letter of Intent is stating the State of Nevada, Division of Emergency Management (NDEM) is awarding [\$96,097.58, \$96,097.58 County match required] for FFY 2023 including funds to be used for travel; retroactive from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2024; If approved authorize the County Manager or his designee to sign the grant award documents when received; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

23-0433 **6H1** Recommendation to accept a Grant Award from Petco Love in the amount of [\$4,375.00; no County match] retroactive to August 1, 2022, to support lost animal reunification efforts by implementing public microchip scanning stations in local Pet Station pet supply stores; and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Regional Animal Services. (All Commission Districts.)

23-0434 **6I1** Recommendation to approve the Law Enforcement Funding Agreement between Burning Man Project (BMP) and Washoe County, on behalf of the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office to provide reimbursement for extra staffing [\$129,582.00 estimated total reimbursement] needed in the Gerlach/Empire area during the annual Burning Man Festival for 2023. Sheriff. (Commission District 5.)

Commissioner Clark requested to pull Items 6G1 and 6G3 from the Consent Agenda. Chair Hill stated she intended to highlight those two items and clarified if Commissioner Clark wanted to vote on them separately to which Commissioner Clark responded yes.

Chair Hill noted Item 6G2 was a Commission District Special Fund disbursement request made by Commissioner Garcia that would allocate a total of \$8,600. She listed the organizations that would receive the funds: Reno Housing Authority (RHA), Awaken, Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada, the Holland Project, Tu Casa Latina, and Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada’s (CCNN) St. Vincent’s Food Pantry.

Chief Deputy County Clerk Cathy Smith indicated the meeting software was down and staff needed time to get it up and running before public comment could be taken.

11:08 a.m. **The Board recessed.**

11:14 a.m. **The Board reconvened with all members present.**

Chair Hill asked Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Nate Edwards to clarify the rules for public comment. ADA Edwards declared that as the agenda provided, there were limitations on public comment. The first of which was the three-minute limit for each speaker which was established by the timer. Viewpoints would not be restricted; however, reasonable restrictions might be imposed upon the time, place, and manner of speech. Irrelevant statements, unduly repetitious statements, and personal attacks that would objectively antagonize or incite others were examples of speech that might be reasonably limited. All comments were to be directed to the Commission as a whole. Chair Hill added that public comments must be related to items on the Consent Agenda.

On the call for public comment, Mr. Scott Finley provided a document that was distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. He read Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 244.1505, Section 3, which explained that a grant or donation to a non-profit

organization created for religious, charitable, or educational purposes and a donation to a governmental entity pursuant to that section must be made by resolution. He pointed out that Items 6G2 and 6G3 were recommendations for grant funding to governmental entities. He explained the distinction between a grant and a donation and highlighted that the Board could only give donations, not grants, to governmental entities. He suggested the Board not approve items 6G2 or 6G3. He recommended the Board implement a method to separate recommendations made for non-profit organizations and governmental entities on the Consent Agenda.

Ms. Christina Ugalde introduced herself as the Executive Director of the Down Syndrome Network of Northern Nevada (DSNNN). She declared the organization was touched by Commissioner Clark's \$5,000 grant recommendation. The DSNNN was a small non-profit with two part-time staff, a board of directors, volunteers, and donors. The organization's mission was to create a positive understanding of Down syndrome while providing information, education, and support to families in its network. She envisioned a community where all members were valued for their uniqueness, respected for their contributions, and provided with the opportunity to create their own path to fulfillment and success. She remarked that in 2022, the DSNNN hosted two programs to support families and had since grown that list to nine. She highlighted different projects the organization could complete with this donation such as paying staff to run the DSNNN day program for a full year, 20 family day or program events, or 227 hours of family service coordination. She claimed this grant would not only have a financial impact on the organization, but it would also have the emotional impact of assuring DSNNN staff that their hard work was paying off and the families in the network were seen by their elected officials. She asserted everyone deserved to feel like they belonged in the community.

Mr. Geoff Staffelbach claimed there was a speeding issue on Goldeneye Parkway in Spanish Springs. He witnessed many vehicles traveling at high rates of speed near his home and had filed complaints with the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO). He reported the sergeant in charge of motor patrol informed him there was not enough WCSO personnel to station officers on Goldeneye Parkway for speed control. Mr. Staffelbach noted that five months earlier there were two officers stationed in his area. He alleged the officers were only present for 15 to 20 minutes during a low-traffic time and issued two citations for individuals who ran a stop sign. He asked for the Board's support to have the issue remedied. Chair Hill directed staff to speak with Mr. Staffelbach.

Ms. Andrea Washington divulged she was the Program Director of Awaken. She thanked the Board for its donation. She said the funds would help the organization put on special events for its clients. The organization was currently working on an event for three youths who decided to go back to school and get their General Education Diplomas (GEDs). Ms. Washington stated the organization wanted to give them the experience of a traditional graduation, so it bought caps and gowns and intended to host a celebration to recognize their accomplishments and give them back a missed childhood experience.

Ms. Penny Brock wished the Board a happy July 4. She alleged it was an infringement of the people's First Amendment rights to place so many items on the Consent Agenda. She expressed concern about Item 6E1 which was a resolution to levy tax rates. She spoke about seniors and young families who struggled financially, and she thought a raise in property taxes would cause an undue burden on them. She mentioned the Board's recent approval of the County's \$1 billion budget and she thought the Board should stop allocating funds to non-profits.

Ms. Val White agreed with Ms. Brock and claimed many non-profits were used as agents for illegal activity. She thought the Board should not donate to non-profits because they received tax benefits from the government. She alleged that the disbursement of funds to non-profits was intended to be advantageous to Board members during elections. She supported the Board in allocating funds to Awaken and the DSNNN.

Ms. Valerie Fiannaca echoed the comments from Ms. White and Mr. Finley. She opined Awaken was a great organization. She expressed beliefs about nefarious actions performed by other non-profits and thought the Board needed to research organizations more thoroughly before allocating funds to them.

Ms. Katherine Snedigar stated she did not receive benefits from the property taxes she paid. She claimed there was no fire protection or health clinic in Palomino Valley. She declared she was investigating methods to prevent her property taxes from being raised.

Commissioner Garcia clarified that the funds slated for the Reno Housing Authority (RHA) in Item 6G2 were strictly allocated to provide a summer fitness program for seniors.

On motion by Commissioner Andriola, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 6A1 through 6I1, with the exclusion of 6G1 and 6G3, be approved. Any and all Resolutions pertinent to Consent Agenda Items 6A1 through 6I1, with the exclusion of 6G1 and 6G3, are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

23-0435 **6G1** Recommendation to approve, pursuant to NRS 244.1505, Commission District Special Fund disbursement in the amount of [\$50,000.00] for Fiscal Year 2022-2023; District 2 Commissioner Michael Clark recommends a [\$5,000.00] grant to the Down Syndrome Network of Northern Nevada -- a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes -- to support their mission to advocate for and with individuals with Down Syndrome and their families to break down any barriers to full, productive and satisfying lives; and a [\$5,000.00] grant to the Nevada Youth Empowerment Project -- a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes -- to support their mission to give homeless young women (18-24) in the Reno area a chance to reroute their lives through a structured program that provides housing and basic needs,

life skills training, opportunities to practice new life skills, and the support and love of a family; and a [\$5,000.00] grant to Opportunity Alliance Nevada -- a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes -- to support their mission of building sustainable communities across Nevada to stabilize and improve the lives of individuals and families; and a [\$5,000.00] grant to the Robert Unsworth Foundation -- a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes -- to support their mission to provide tennis equipment and instruction to public schools and youth groups; and a [\$5,000.00] grant to Truckee Meadows Housing Solutions -- a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes -- to support their mission to further the public good, namely by adding more low income units (60% AMI or less) to the housing inventory; and a [\$3,750.00] grant to the Nevada Center for Civic Engagement -- a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes -- to support the We the People: Civil and Constitution program to promote civic competence and responsibility among the nation's upper elementary and secondary students; and a [\$3,750.00] grant to the Sanford Center for Aging -- a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes -- to support their mission to enhance the quality of life and well-being among elders through education, translational research, and community outreach; and a [\$2,500.00] grant to Forever 14 -- a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes -- to support their teen connection events including the Great Race to End Teen Suicide being held on September 16th; and a [\$2,500.00] grant to the Girl Scouts of Sierra Nevada -- a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes -- to support their mission to strive to make the world better every single day and explore their strengths, take on new challenges, and be themselves, regardless of background or ability; and a [\$2,500.00] grant to the Great Basin Chaplain Corps -- a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes -- to support their mission to provide counsel, education, advocacy, life improvement skills, and recovery training, providing a bridge between the secular and spiritual environments of community life throughout the Great Basin; and a [\$2,500.00] grant to the India Association of Northern Nevada -- a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes -- to support their goal to bring the citizens of the Indian subcontinent together to promote and celebrate rich Indian heritage; and a [\$2,500.00] grant to the Neighbor Network of Northern Nevada (N4) -- a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes -- to support their mission to connect Northern Nevadans for inclusive, community-based services, volunteer opportunities, and affordable transportation; and a [\$2,500.00] grant to the Northern Nevada Sikh Society -- a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes -- to support their goal to spread the Sikh religious teachings of love, brotherhood, peace and unity as established by the ten Sikh gurus; and a

[\$2,500.00] grant to Palomino Valley Pet Rescue -- a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes - to support their mission to find pets good homes through rescuing from overcrowded shelters and educating the public and provide services that will reduce the numbers of unwanted cats and dogs; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary disbursements of funds. Manager's Office. (Commission District 2.)

Commissioner Clark thanked people for attending the Board of County Commissioners' (BCC) meeting and for commenting on receiving Commission District Special Fund disbursements. He noted the district special funds were taxpayer dollars. He encouraged County residents to email or call him with the names of organizations that were often overlooked and needed recognition. He thanked Program Assistant Alexandra Wilson for urging him to disburse funds, noting he had taken time to find groups that had not received funds from the BCC. He hoped somebody in the community would also contribute to some of the non-profit organizations the County was helping. He thanked organizations that posted the names of Commissioners who gave them money on their website, but he thought it was a little disingenuous to post about elected officials because it was taxpayer dollars, not the Commissioners' funds.

On the call for public comment, Nevada Center for Civic Engagement (NCCE) Program Director Christine Hull thanked the Commissioners for their generosity to all non-profits. She thanked Commissioner Clark for recommending the donation and clarifying that the disbursements were taxpayer dollars. She shared she was a Washoe County native and was honored to represent the NCCE. She spoke about the beliefs of the NCCE, stating professional learning supported teachers to lead highly engaging in-depth social studies programs. She said the NCCE taught students to engage and be active participants in the community and the generosity of taxpayers would help with that. She shared the results from the 2022 administration of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) which showed eighth-grade students demonstrated 22 percent proficiency in civics and 14 percent in history. She asserted that this donation would help bridge that gap.

Ms. Amy Turner spoke on behalf of her friend Ms. Sandra Unsworth who established a non-profit, The Robert Unsworth Foundation (RUF), after the death of her son who was a nationally ranked tennis player. She said the RUF was established to give less fortunate children the opportunity to play tennis. She thanked the Board for the donation to the RUF on Commissioner Clark's recommendation. The RUF's mission statement was to support tennis instruction, mentoring, and equipment for youth from communities that did not traditionally play tennis. She mentioned the foundation hosted a three-day event in May partnering with the Washoe County Human Services Agency (HSA), Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and the local Boys and Girls Club.

Ms. Kelly George mentioned she was the Executive Director of Opportunity Alliance Nevada (OANV) which had operated in Washoe County since 2004. The OANV's mission was the financial stability of Nevadans. She spoke about the OANV's efforts on

behalf of people who struggled financially from the COVID-19 (C19) crisis. She said the OANV collected data to determine whether change was being made and to identify what could be done to remove barriers that kept people in poverty. She noted there were many resources to help people move out of poverty. She asserted the Board's generous donations would not only impact non-profit organizations but also the people who lived in and wanted to remain in the community.

Ms. Marilyn York, President of the Nevada Youth Empowerment Project (NYEP), thanked Commissioner Clark for directing taxpayer dollars to NYEP. She shared that NYEP was a housing program for 18- to 24-year-old girls who were otherwise homeless. NYEP housed girls and helped them graduate from high school and save enough money to obtain a living wage so they could become productive members of society. She said NYEP was one of the only local charities that tracked all of its outcomes. NYEP could house 15 girls at a time and was partnering with Truckee Meadows Housing Solutions (TMHS) to build a Gen Den affordable housing site. She expressed appreciation for the \$5,000 donation which would help youth achieve success. She invited people to visit www.nyep.org for more information.

Ms. Val White acknowledged that some non-profit organizations had admirable goals, but she believed many did not. She did not support gifting taxpayer money to some non-profit organizations. She spoke about her experience as part of a teacher's union that allowed members to direct donations to certain organizations. She felt she was being forced to have her taxpayer money support non-profit organizations she did not believe in. She alleged that some non-profit organizations used taxpayer funds to indoctrinate and train social justice warriors to undermine the republic. She urged the Board to either stop giving her taxpayer funds to non-profit organizations or allow her to direct where the donations went. She opined that the Commissioners should use their own funds to support non-profit organizations if they wished to do so and asked for donation information to be published annually in a public place.

Ms. Britton Griffith expressed gratitude for Commissioner Clark's recommendation to disburse taxpayer funds to TMHS. The generous funding would go towards the development of a small-scale intergenerational housing complex that aimed to provide ten clean and safe residential units for low-income seniors and young adults in the community. The vision of the project named Gen Den was not limited to providing housing but also to creating an intentional collaborative community culture. She said the project would instill a sense of pride in residents, the neighborhood, and the community. The disbursement from the Board would offset the cost that would otherwise be passed directly to the renters. She stated this funding was a commitment to affordable housing and demonstrated Commissioner Clark's understanding of the challenges faced by low-income individuals in the community. She described the housing units for this project, noting the age and income qualifications of residents would be digitally verified.

Mr. Emilio Vaca, Public Information Officer (PIO) for the Great Basin Chaplain Corps (GBCC), thanked the Commissioners for their service to the County. He expressed gratitude on behalf of the GBCC for the \$2,500 grant recommendation. He

shared information about the spiritual efforts of the GBCC throughout the County. He said he prayed for the Commissioners and their families. He mentioned the GBCC chaplains were all volunteers who paid for their own training and supplies. He mentioned that all the GBCC chaplains were certified to administer Narcan in the community and they all carried it with them.

Ms. Lali Parasa, President of the India Association of Northern Nevada (IANN), said the IANN had been a non-profit group for the past three decades but this was the first time it received a grant from Washoe County. The IANN was a minority group that helped low-income families and women who were experiencing domestic violence. She shared that some women who did not want to call 911 called the IANN directly and this grant would help those low-income families and children in need.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Item 6G1 be approved and directed. Any and all Resolutions pertinent to Consent Agenda Item 6G1 are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

23-0436 **6G3** Recommendation to approve, pursuant to NRS 244.1505, Commission District Special Fund disbursement in the amount of [\$1,000.00] for Fiscal Year 2022-2023; District 3 Commissioner Mariluz Garcia recommends a [\$1,000.00] grant to the Sun Valley General Improvement District -- a governmental entity and a body corporate and politic and a quasi-municipal corporation -- to retroactively support their Dive Into Summer Event held on June 16, 2023 as part of their kick-off to the recreation season; approve Resolution necessary for same; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary disbursement of funds. Manager's Office. (Commission District 3.)

12:02 p.m. **Chair Hill left the meeting and Vice Chair Herman assumed the gavel.**

Commissioner Clark stated he received three calls from constituents regarding this item. He reported, that during the Sun Valley General Improvement District (SVGID) meeting in June, the board approved \$348,121.33 in payables. He noted that on the SVGID website, it indicated the Dive Into Summer Event was a free community event that included a barbecue, music, raffle, and information booths from various organizations. He asked County Manager Eric Brown if Washoe County had a booth at the event. Manager Brown did not think it did.

On the call for public comment, Ms. Val White was not present when called to speak.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Chair Hill being absent, it was ordered that Item 6G3 be approved and directed. The Resolution for same is attached hereto and made a part of minutes thereof.

BLOCK VOTE – 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, AND 16

23-0437 **AGENDA ITEM 8** Recommendation to award a bid and approve the Agreement to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder for the North Spanish Springs Flood Retention Basin Fence Project located in Sparks, Nevada, generally north of Eagle Canyon Drive and to the west of Pyramid Highway, APN 532-020-04. The scope of the project is to furnish and install approximately 10,000 lineal feet of six-foot high chain link fence around Washoe County’s North Spanish Springs Flood Detention Facility. [Staff recommends Tholl Fence Company, Inc., in the amount of \$632,466.00]. Community Services. (Commission District 4.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Chair Hill being absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 8 be awarded and approved.

23-0438 **AGENDA ITEM 9** Recommendation to award a bid and approve the Agreement to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder for the Lift Station Improvements Projects for Woodland Village (18095 Sophia Court, Cold Springs), Montreux (0 Callahan Road, Reno) and Diamond Peak (0 Diamond Peak Drive, Cold Springs, Nevada), PWP-WA-2023-355 [staff recommends K.G. Walters Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$482,000.00]; and approve a separate project contingency fund [in the amount of \$50,000.00]. Lift station improvements and supervisor control and data acquisition (SCADA) upgrades will increase function and reliability of wastewater conveyance to Washoe County’s Wastewater Treatment Facilities. Community Services. (Commission Districts 2 and 5.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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

23-0439 **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation to authorize the Comptroller's Office to renew the Excess Workers' Compensation Insurance Policy with Safety National for a one-year term with an estimated annual premium of [\$358,609.39] and Property, Boiler & Machinery, Cyber Liability and Pollution Liability with the Public Entity Property Insurance Program (PEPIP) for a one-year term with an annual cost not to exceed [\$1,616,876.44], effective July 1, 2023 and authorize the Comptroller's Office to sign the applications and agreements necessary to bind coverage, funding from the Risk Management Fund source. Comptroller. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Chair Hill being absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be authorized.

23-0440 **AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommendation to authorize the Comptroller's Office to renew the Excess Liability Insurance Policy with Safety National Casualty Corporation for a one-year term with an annual cost not to exceed [\$426,064], effective July 1, 2023, and authorize the Comptroller's Office to sign the applications and agreements necessary to bind coverage, funding from the Risk Management Fund source. Comptroller. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Chair Hill being absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 11 be authorized.

23-0441 **AGENDA ITEM 14** Recommendation to approve the FY23/24 purchase order (PO# TBD) issued to Visionary Integration Professionals (VIP) for an approximate amount of \$545,565 to support the Washoe County Health District with the Accela environmental Health Remediation Project. Health District. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Chair Hill being absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 14 be approved.

23-0442 **AGENDA ITEM 15** Recommendation to accept a subaward from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Child Care Licensing in the amount of [\$720,000.00; \$0.00 county match] retroactive to July 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023 to provide Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Act (CRRSA) funds to support child care provider training/technical assistance, quality improvement, and capacity building by assisting new child care center applicants and new family home-based child care applicants with start-up costs; authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency to retroactively execute the subaward and related documents; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Chair Hill being absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 15 be accepted, authorized, and directed.

23-0443 **AGENDA ITEM 16** Recommendation, pursuant to NRS 701B.990, to nominate Jason Geddes (incumbent) to the Board of Directors of the Nevada Clean Energy Fund as the Washoe County nominee to submit to the Governor to fill a term of 3 years from the date of appointment. Manager's Office (All Commission Districts.)

On the call for public comment, Ms. Valerie Fiannaca asserted the round-robin appointments needed to stop. She asked whether this position was opened up to the public and if people were allowed to apply for the appointment. She spoke about a Washoe County Library Board position that would open in three days, but it had not been advertised. She expressed concern about some information Mr. Joe Rodriguez, who already served on the Washoe County School Board and had a full-time job, included on his application. She reiterated that round-robin appointments needed to end.

Commissioner Clark noted the Board recommended Mr. Geddes in 2017 and 2020 for two three-year terms. He questioned whether the position was opened to see if there were other interested parties or if Mr. Geddes was automatically reappointed. He looked at Mr. Geddes' qualifications and said it appeared the County was lucky to have him, but he wanted to verify the opportunity was made available to the community.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Chair Hill being absent, it was ordered that Jason Geddes be nominated to the Board of Directors of the Nevada Clean Energy Fund as the Washoe County nominee.

23-0444 **AGENDA ITEM 12** Recommendation to retroactively approve contracts and purchases that have exceeded and are expected to exceed [\$300,000.00] that include library books, legal software services, temporary services, court reporting services and necessary goods and services for all County departments. A full list of specific contract, vendors, and amounts is viewable in the staff report. The aggregate amount of known expenditures under these contracts to date is \$14,337,252.30. Comptroller. (All Commission Districts.)

On the call for public comment, Ms. Janet Butcher displayed a document that was placed on file with the Clerk. She spoke about books available to children and teens in Washoe County libraries and expressed consternation regarding the content of some of them. She recalled a time she worked with a counselor for young people who had substance abuse issues. She discussed a case where the counselor encouraged families to remove any substance from the home that could be tempting to the patient. She declared libraries should not be a place where children were exposed to inappropriate content.

Ms. Valerie Fiannaca provided a document that was placed on file with the Clerk. She asked Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Nate Edwards to please address the video she sent to him of Library Director Jeff Scott at a drag queen story hour (DQSH) event. She opined the American Library Association (ALA) encouraged library directors not to allow conservatives to reserve spaces in libraries. The ALA provided excuses such as insurance issues, danger, or that reservations were already filled. She pointed out the ALA was a 501(c)(3) non-profit that had received \$211 million in government funding in 2022. She mentioned she attended the Washoe County Audit Committee meeting the previous week and reported that an audit of the Washoe County libraries was scheduled. She suggested the County not allocate any additional money to the library system until the audit was carried out. She requested that all Board members watch the video she sent to ADA Edwards.

Ms. Sandee Tibbett provided a document that was placed on file with the Clerk. She stated the handout included titles of books available to children in public libraries and expressed distaste regarding their content.

Ms. Penny Brock noted the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) appropriated almost \$900,000 for library books and over \$800,000 for the Cares Campus Safe Camp in this item. She recalled that in 2021 the Board gave \$4.5 million to the Safe Camp, and in early 2022 it allocated \$500,000 per year to the program until June 2026. She mentioned this item also allocated over \$337,000 to K&H for the printing and mailing of ballots. She suggested the Board table the funding for the library books because the Audit Committee intended to perform an audit of the library system and she thought the Board should wait for that report before it gave any money to the libraries. She asked that the allocation to K&H also be tabled because she believed the work should be carried out by a local vendor to better monitor the handling of ballots. She requested information regarding standards that were in place for libraries, the Cares Campus, and elections. She spoke about a press release from New York City about the agenda of members of the pride community.

Mr. Scott Finley provided a document that was placed on file with the Clerk. He thought mail-in voting was not secure and discussed an example of the United States Postal Service (USPS) failing to properly track paperwork sent by his wife. He opined that the incident signaled that USPS's tracking system was lacking when it came to the security and care required for handling ballots. He recalled that during the 2020 presidential election, he received an alert from BallotTrax indicating his mail-in ballot was en route to the Registrar of Voters (ROV) Office even though he was still in possession of it. He requested that the Board deny the \$300,000 allocation to K&H for ballot printing and mailing services.

Ms. Nichelle Hull displayed an image of the book titled *This Book is Gay* by Juno Dawson which was placed on file with the Clerk. She reported she attended the Audit Committee meeting the previous week. She recalled Comptroller Cathy Hill mentioned that although the library system audit was approved, it was not possible to audit based on categories. Ms. Hull noted the book she displayed on the overhead was

categorized as a young adult resource book. She read an excerpt from page 66 of *This Book is Gay* and expressed indignation regarding its content.

12:34 p.m. Commissioner Garcia left the meeting.

Ms. Victoria Myer provided a document that was placed on file with the Clerk. She spoke about the meanings of flags representing the LGBTQIA+ and read from her document that described the acronym. She presented one of the pages of her document which depicted a display at the South Valleys Library and she highlighted one of the books on the display shelf. She informed that banned book week was in October.

12:38 p.m. Commissioner Garcia returned to the meeting.

Mr. Roger Edwards remarked he was a 50-year resident of Washoe County and expressed vexation that this item grouped several financial allocations together. He opined there were several facets of this item that needed to be discussed individually. He implored the Board to deny or modify this item to remove the authorization of funding for library books so it could be discussed in depth.

Ms. Katherine Snedigar spoke about child grooming and a book on the Committee of 300. She stated the book explained there were 300 people in England who controlled everything. She expressed frustration regarding books available in the libraries.

Ms. Deborah Sauk pointed out this item was to retroactively approve purchases that exceeded \$300,000. She thought County staff should immediately bring projects exceeding \$300,000 to the Board. She expressed dissatisfaction with the descriptions of what was purchased with the money in this item and urged the Board to vote no.

Commissioner Clark claimed he could not vote in favor of this item until he was provided with a list of the purchased book titles. He urged the rest of the Commission to make the same request so Board members could make an informed decision about this item.

County Manager Eric Brown asserted that Ms. Hill was present in the Chambers and could provide insight on this item.

Ms. Hill observed that the purchases for this item along with the procurement policies that had taken place were listed in the Staff Report. Regarding the library books, Commissioners could request for staff to pull the purchase invoices, but the County did not enter each book title into the system. She pointed out this item was for purchases that had already occurred and assured that the County had followed proper procurement procedures. She noted that none of these departments or purchases caused any line items to be over budget. Commissioner Clark responded he wanted the Library Board to provide the list of books it had requested.

Commissioner Andriola inquired how the approval for retroactive purchases worked. Ms. Hill informed that as the fiscal year (FY) progressed and departments made necessary purchases to perform services, it was not uncommon in the last quarter of the FY for budget authorities to exceed the \$300,000 threshold. Since the departments were not over budget, staff brought this item to the Board for transparency purposes to let it know which departments had reached that mark. Staff worked to shorten this list every year and used it to make improvements for procurement and for departments to get essential services and supplies. She declared the retroactive nature of this item was due to a culmination of purchases in the last quarter of FY23. Commissioner Andriola requested assurance that these purchases were still within department budgets to which Ms. Hill responded yes. Commissioner Andriola asked if it was the threshold of expenditures that triggered this item coming before the Commission. Ms. Hill replied if staff was presented with a contract from one vendor, for one purpose, that exceeded \$300,000, staff would bring the item before the Board for approval prior to the procurement of that service. She asserted that no items in this Staff Report had individual purchase amounts of \$300,000 nor did they cause any department to exceed their budget. Commissioner Andriola wondered how often department budgets went over the \$300,000 threshold. Ms. Hill said it was not common for departments to exceed the threshold in the first or second quarters, historically it happened towards the end of the FY. She noted departments also had to work with the timelines of vendors as purchases could not be entered into the financial system until the vendor submitted an invoice.

Commissioner Andriola asked what the penalty would be if the Board did not approve this item. Ms. Hill responded that the departments would have to stop purchasing from any of the vendors in the Staff Report for the remainder of FY23. Commissioner Andriola wondered if voting no on this item would impact future purchases from the listed vendors. Ms. Hill replied that it would stop the services and supplies that the departments needed to perform their jobs for FY23, but it would not impact purchases in FY24.

Commissioner Andriola queried Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Nate Edwards about how censorship was defined and where it fell in terms of the responsibility of the Commission versus the Library Board. ADA Edwards stated that in Supreme Court case law, there were authorities that recognized the power of government to make determinations of appropriateness for children. He spoke about First Amendment law and noted there was a variety of categories that the Supreme Court recognized as prohibited speech including protecting children. He observed that where the line was drawn was up for debate, but the courts had recognized it as a valid category.

Commissioner Andriola asserted she was against the materials that had been read during previous public comments. She requested further information regarding the Commission's authority in terms of books purchased and ensuring equal representation for everyone in the community. She noted that due to the retroactive nature of this item, any books of potential concern were already in the library system so she would vote in support of this item.

Vice Chair Herman asked ADA Edwards if the Board could choose not to approve certain purchases in this item. ADA Edwards inquired if she was asking if the BCC could move to approve this item except for certain facets to which Vice Chair Herman responded yes. ADA Edwards confirmed that was correct. Generally, under Open Meeting Law (OML), the Commission could approve less than what the agenda listed, but not more.

Commissioner Garcia reminded the Board Item 12 was an administrative item. She pointed out that the approval of retroactive expenses was a common job assigned to Washoe County Commissioners and their job was to focus on policy. Upon arrival at the meeting, she did not imagine the Board would open discussion or hear comments regarding the banning or censorship of books in the library system. She declared that the BCC was not in charge of programming. The County Commissioners had the task to vote on Item 12 which was administrative.

Vice Chair Herman wondered if she could guide the approval of this item in the direction she had inquired about. ADA Edwards stated she could make or call for a motion. Vice Chair Herman moved to approve this item with the exception of Overdrive Incorporated, Baker and Taylor Books, and K&H Printers.

Commissioner Clark wanted to know if the Commissioners could request for the Library Board to come to a BCC meeting and give an informational presentation to help the Board learn more about materials in the library system. He understood this item was administrative but pointed out that issues with the library were the root of unrest in the community. He assured he did not agree with censorship, but he wanted to ensure steps were being taken to protect children in the community. ADA Edwards responded that staff was looking into answers to several questions on related issues. He noted procedures were harder to navigate than they might seem because of the status of the Library Board under Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 379. He wanted to look at possible routes to either have a joint meeting between the Commission and the Library Board or a presentation from a representative of the Library Board. He stated he would do some research and come back to the Board with options. Commissioner Clark stated this was not to make him happy, it was to appease the public. He wanted the Library Board to make a presentation to the constituents as to how these books could be beneficial to juveniles. He reiterated his request to know how the BCC could remove members of the Library Board if the Commission was displeased with their work.

Ms. Hill restated the expenditures in this item occurred with proper procurement and she thought Commissioner Clark's concern was what specifically was procured by the libraries.

Vice Chair Herman explained she made the motion to exclude the three items in hopes that it would encourage the Board to discuss the items more in-depth. She commended Commissioner Clark for his idea to have a meeting with the Library Board. She reminded there was a motion on the floor and asked if there was anyone willing to second the motion.

Commissioner Andriola disclosed that her husband worked for Champion Chevrolet, which was slated to receive funding through this item. Although her husband was not in a decision-making or executive-level position, he did work for the company and might or might not be impacted by this item. In an abundance of caution, she would recuse herself from that portion of this item.

ADA Edwards clarified that Commissioner Andriola only wanted to recuse herself from the Champion Chevrolet portion of this item, not the entire item, to which Commissioner Andriola responded yes. ADA Edwards recommended that since Vice Chair Herman already made a motion to pull three purchases from this item, she could amend her motion to also pull out the Champion Chevrolet Geo allocation. Vice Chair Herman amended her motion as suggested. Ms. Hill informed that Washoe County did not negotiate with Champion Chevrolet, it joined a contract with the State of Nevada directly so there was no relationship between the County and Champion Chevrolet. ADA Edwards verified the motion was to approve this item minus the four facets that had been mentioned. Vice Chair Herman confirmed and asked for a second. Commissioner Clark thanked Commissioner Andriola for her disclosure and commented that regardless of what entity the contract was with, the money was being paid out of Washoe County's account. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Commissioner Clark declared that at the end of the day, all these vendors would get paid considering this item was retroactive. He explained that this item was an opportunity for people to discuss these purchases and voice their feelings about them. He expressed a desire to be informed about purchases such as those included in this item before they happened instead of after the fact.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Clark, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Chair Hill being absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 12, with the exclusion of the Champion Chevrolet Geo vendor, be retroactively approved.

1:17 p.m. **Commissioner Andriola left the meeting.**

On motion by Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, which motion duly carried on a 3-0 vote with Chair Hill being absent and Commissioner Andriola abstaining, it was ordered that the payment to Champion Chevrolet Geo be retroactively approved.

1:19 p.m. **Commissioner Andriola returned to the meeting.**

23-0445 **AGENDA ITEM 13** Recommendation to approve budget amendments totaling an increase of [\$3,064,855; no county match] in both revenue and expense to the FY23 Community and Clinical Health Services Division (CCHS) Family Planning ARPA Program, subaward retroactive to January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2026 and direct the Comptroller's office to

make the appropriate budget amendments. Health District. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 3-1 vote with Vice Chair Herman voting no and Chair Hill being absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 13 be approved and directed.

23-0446 **AGENDA ITEM 7** Recommendation to receive a presentation and update on the Envision Washoe 2040 project, a comprehensive update to all aspects of the Master Plan, including the six existing elements and 12 of the existing area plans. Per NRS 278.150, Washoe County is required to have a master plan inclusive of specific “elements” and in conformance with the applicable Regional Plan. The revised Master Plan is being developed based on an extensive public engagement process and will guide land use decisions in the unincorporated county over a 20-year horizon. Community Services. (All Commission Districts.)

Senior Planner Eric Young conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Agenda; WC Master Plan Requirements; Master Plan Components; Goals of Update; Plan Structure; Area Plans; Plan Structure; 2021-2022 Timeline; 2023 Timeline; Public Outreach; Public Outreach Phases; Next Steps; Ongoing Events; Thank You.

Mr. Young displayed the agenda for his presentation. He explained the County was required to have a Master Plan by both State Statute and the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA). State Statute described the Master Plan as the method by which the County intended to absorb the expected population over a certain number of years. He noted the County’s Master Plan had not been updated in over 30 years. He clarified there had been amendments when there was a new Regional Plan or State Statute, but there had not been an overall update since the Master Plan’s initial adoption. He spoke about the Master Plan map which identified the types of development that staff hoped to see in different areas of the County. Importantly, the map also included goals and policies throughout several different topics such as transportation, land use, conservation, housing, population, public services, and facilities. Some of those elements were required by Statute and some were added by staff as they saw necessary to manage expected growth over time. Many different agencies looked to the County’s goals and policies to determine the intent of the Master Plan. One common way goals and policies were used was in grant applications. He stated a common question on applications was, “What does the Master Plan say about this issue?” Another common way they were used was in discretionary permits. When someone submitted a permit for a tentative map, staff would look at the Master Plan for its description of how development should be managed in that area.

Mr. Young explained staff wanted to update the Master Plan because it had acquired hundreds of policies and dozens of goals over time. He pointed out that the physical plan consisted of 19 separate documents that were difficult to access as they lacked descriptive graphics and pictures. The goal for this update was to make the Master Plan more concise, usable, and accessible by removing regulatory language and modernizing the plan with graphics and explanatory documents. Staff also hoped to clearly contextualize Washoe County in a regional context which meant ensuring that people understood Washoe County's role in the overall growth of the region. Staff chose to use the existing Regional Plan as a model and move all regulatory language into the Development Code. Staff then consolidated the goals and policies into a single document. He stated the first chapter of the new plan would consist of the background information on the Master Plan. The second chapter would be about the principles and policies that directed the growth management system in Washoe County. Chapter 3 would outline the implementation guidelines for accomplishing the goals set in Chapter 2.

Mr. Young stated this project had been in the works since October 2021 when staff established various committees to implement the update. He declared staff planned to bring the full first draft to those committees the first week of August. The release of the first full draft for public review was targeted for August 11, 2023. He pointed out there was a robust engagement plan and staff had never accomplished as much public outreach as they did for this project. He directed the Board to the Staff Report which detailed County staff's extensive efforts to communicate with the public. He announced staff planned to bring the first public hearing for this project before the Planning Commission (PC) in October. He explained the next steps for this project were to start going over the draft with the committees. Staff would then make adjustments based on committee recommendations and would start public outreach in early August. A form of outreach staff intended to use was called tabling which was where staff would set up a table at a regional event and obtain feedback from the event's patrons. Staff had already developed a list of events and were scheduled to attend the Spanish Language Poetry Festival on August 5, 2023. He noted the Envision Washoe 2040 webpage was an excellent source of additional information for this project.

Commissioner Garcia thanked Mr. Young for his presentation. She opined this was important work that she did not want to be overshadowed by earlier events in the meeting. She recalled meeting with Mr. Young in January where he showed interest and effort in communicating with her directly about the region she represented. She valued the project's digital accessibility and thanked staff for providing a Spanish translation of project materials.

Commissioner Andriola expressed appreciation to Mr. Young for meeting with her to catch her up on this project. She admired the endeavor staff had taken to consolidate the Master Plan and for their extensive outreach efforts.

23-0447 **AGENDA ITEM 17** Recommendation to appoint two members to the Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board. One member shall fill the position specified in WCC 55.036(1)(c): a representative of a humane or rescue organization; applicants include Diaz Dixon and Karrie Wirth; and one member shall fill the position in WCC 55.036(1)(d): an individual with an interest in promoting the health and safety of animals in Washoe County; applicants include Jill Fisher, Joe Rodriguez, Rob Pierce, William Robinson, and Irene Payne (incumbent). Both open positions have a four-year term which runs from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2027. Regional Animal Services. (All Commission Districts.)

Program Assistant Alexandra Wilson informed that Commissioner Garcia would make a recommendation for the representative of a humane or rescue organization position. Since there were four applicants for the public position, the Board members would choose their top two candidates via closed ballot.

Commissioner Garcia thanked the applicants for volunteering their time, Ms. Wilson for keeping the appointment process on track, and Director of Regional Animal Services Shyanne Schull for her leadership. She announced a capacity notice for the shelter went out the previous Monday. She noted the Facebook account for the Washoe County Regional Animal Services (WCRAS) was down which prevented staff from appropriately messaging its critical capacity issue. While serving on the WCRAS board, she witnessed the unique relationship between the WCRAS and the Nevada Humane Society (NHS). She observed how quickly things could deteriorate when there were breakdowns in communications, which impacted the movement and flow of animals. She declared those breakdowns ultimately led to capacity issues and put County animals at risk for euthanasia.

Commissioner Garcia pointed out that her recommended candidates for these positions were experts in communication. She opined both had strong ties to the business and non-profit community and excellent track records of volunteerism. For the representative of a humane or rescue organization position, she recommended Mr. Diaz Dixon who had served in leadership roles at both the local and national levels. She thought he was a strong advocate for animal welfare and had a tremendous amount of non-profit and relationship-building experience. For the representative to promote health and safety position, Commissioner Garcia recommended Ms. Irene Payne. She noted Ms. Payne had successfully served on the WCRAS board since 2017. Ms. Payne had a background in marketing and possessed a broad understanding of local government and international trends. Commissioner Garcia stated she had the privilege of serving on the WCRAS board with Ms. Payne and was continually impressed with her breadth of knowledge and communication expertise.

Commissioner Andriola remarked she had one-on-one conversations with each applicant for this item. She looked forward to her requested implementation of a new process to evaluate candidates. She agreed with Commissioner Garcia on her recommendation of Mr. Dixon. She thought his ability to bring people together was unmatched in the community. She noted Ms. Karrie Wirth was also a good candidate. She

thought Ms. Payne possessed vital institutional knowledge and had a long history of serving the public. She expressed support for Ms. Jill Fisher. She pointed out Ms. Fisher worked as a veterinarian and possessed in-depth knowledge that could be crucial to solving the County's critical capacity issues.

Commissioner Clark expressed his support for Mr. Dixon. He noted Ms. Wirth worked for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) which was involved in a lawsuit with the City of Reno and Reno Iron Works. He appreciated Ms. Payne's service but thought the Commission should appoint a new member to allow others the chance to serve on an advisory board. He mentioned Mr. Joe Rodriguez planned to run for the Sparks City Council. He declared he would support Mr. William Robinson for the representative to promote health and safety position.

Ms. Wilson stated the first appointment would be a vote based on the recommendation from Commissioner Garcia. Following that, the Board would vote on the other four candidates via closed ballot. She recommended that the Board take public comment before a decision was made.

On the call for public comment, Ms. Valerie Fiannaca stated the animal shelter was at a critical level because of financial burdens placed on the public by the government. She thought the Board had good candidates to choose from.

Ms. Irene Payne thanked the Board for its dedication to the community. She noted she was the incumbent and vice chair of the WCRAS board. She remarked that local shelters were extremely overcrowded and the WCRAS had challenges with the NHS. She worked alongside WCRAS staff who she opined did an amazing job under difficult conditions. She and other members of the WCRAS board worked to resolve current issues and while progress had been made, she asserted there was much more work to do. She declared she was the only candidate qualified to immediately work with the WCRAS team to continue to resolve the challenges faced by the County. She hoped the Commission would consider the extenuating circumstances and the need for continuity and institutional knowledge on the WCRAS board.

Mr. Rob Pierce stated he was an applicant for the WCRAS board. He spoke about an issue in his neighborhood with barking dogs. He reported that he and his neighbors had submitted over 200 complaints to animal control, attended three court appearances, and numerous citations had been issued to the offending neighbor. He did not think any Washoe County resident should have to go through what he and his neighbors experienced, and he asked the Board to consider him for this appointment so he could work to fix the problem. He reported he sat on numerous other boards and cared about the people of Washoe County.

Ms. Penny Brock asked the Board not to vote for Mr. Rodriguez. She noted he already sat on the Washoe County School District (WCSD) board of trustees and intended to run for Sparks City Council. She recalled she attended the last Audit Committee meeting where the committee reviewed travel expenses for 2022. She declared the WCRAS

board spent \$20,000 and had not exhausted its entire budget. She learned that members of the WCRAS board traveled the world to rescue animals in need despite the County facing shelter overcrowding. She suggested the WCRAS board's travel budget be cut and new people be appointed to the board.

Ms. Val White expressed consternation regarding Commissioner Garcia's apology to Mr. Young during Item 7. Ms. White indicated there were too many flags displayed in the Chambers. She thought it was inappropriate to have more than the American and Nevada flags displayed. She alleged Commissioner Garcia had her personal laptop in front of her along with the laptop issued to her by Washoe County and wondered what Commissioner Garcia was using her personal laptop for. She asked if there was a policy that prevented Commissioners from having personal communication devices out during meetings. She asked the Board not to vote for any candidates supported by Commissioner Garcia or Commissioner Andriola.

Ms. Candy Greene spoke about Commissioner Garcia's comment concerning the WCRAS Facebook page being down. She stated she handled over 400 Facebook accounts. She informed that Mr. Sanjay Gupta, who appeared before the Board regarding a short-term rental (STR) issue in Tyrolian Village, worked for Facebook. She suggested WCRAS staff should contact Mr. Gupta regarding their account issues. She expressed her support for the appointment of Mr. Dixon.

2:00 p.m. Commissioner Garcia left the meeting.

Commissioner Clark asked Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Nate Edwards if the Board should vote without Commissioner Garcia. County Manager Eric Brown responded that Commissioner Garcia was on her way back to the Chambers.

2:04 p.m. Commissioner Garcia returned to the meeting.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Chair Hill being absent, it was ordered that Diaz Dixon be appointed for a four-year term which would run from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2027.

Vice Chair Herman stated the next applicant would be chosen via closed ballot. Chief Deputy County Clerk Cathy Smith read the Commissioner votes aloud. She summarized the top candidates were Mr. Rob Pierce, Mr. William Robinson, and Ms. Irene Payne. Ms. Wilson stated the Board members would vote on those three candidates. Ms. Smith read the results of the second round of ballots. Ms. Wilson indicated the Board would need a formal motion to appoint Ms. Payne to the WCRAS board.

Commissioner Garcia moved, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, to appoint Irene Payne. The motion failed on a 2-2 vote with Commissioner Clark and Vice Chair Herman voting no and Chair Hill being absent.

ADA Edwards stated a vote of three was required for action. The Board could continue to deliberate and try to come to an agreement, or this item could be postponed to a later date.

Commissioner Andriola felt the institutional knowledge of Ms. Payne was critical. She felt the best choice was to table this item. Vice Chair Herman agreed and asked ADA Edwards if the Board needed to vote to table this item to which ADA Edwards responded no.

23-0448 **AGENDA ITEM 18** Public Hearing: Second reading and adoption of an Ordinance pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes 278.0201 through 278.0207 adopting a development agreement as required by the Warm Springs Specific Plan (WSSP) at WSSP.8.1, to utilize the regulatory zone designation specified on the Warm Springs Specific Plan - Land Use Plan for: Tentative Parcel Map Case Number WTPM21-0019 (Webb Family Trust) - Which is a tentative parcel map dividing a 40-acre parcel (APN 077-130-17) into three 5.0 acre parcels and one 24.99 acre parcel. In order to develop any property in the WSSP more densely than General Rural (1 dwelling unit/40 acres), the specific plan requires that a development agreement be approved. Among other things, the development agreement adopts development standards for the property in conformance with the Warm Springs Specific Plan Development Standards Handbook Framework, a component of the Washoe County Master Plan, such as standards relating to uses, accessory structures, building requirements, setbacks, heating and fireplaces, architecture, landscaping, fencing, lighting, utilities, and other matters concerning the development of the land. Further, the development agreement provides for the participation of future property owners in any assessment district or general improvement district providing services, facilities and/or maintenance for the specific plan area. The applicant and property owner is the Webb Family Trust. The subject site is approximately 40 acres in size and is located at 3325 Broken Spur Road. The Assessor's Parcel Number is 077-130-17. The Master Plan Category is 53% Suburban Residential (SR) (21.2 acres) & 47% Rural (R) (18.8 acres), and the Regulatory Zone is 53% Low Density Suburban (LDS-1 units per acre; 21.2 acres) & 47% General Rural (GR - 1 unit per 40 acres; 18.8 acres); and If approved, authorize the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners to sign the Development Agreement. Community Services. (Commission District 5.).

Vice Chair Herman opened the public hearing by calling on anyone wishing to speak for or against the adoption of said Ordinance. There being no response, the hearing was closed.

Chief Deputy County Clerk Cathy Smith read the title for Ordinance No. 1706, Bill No. 1896.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Clark, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote with Chair Hill being absent, it was ordered that Ordinance No. 1706, Bill No. 1896, be adopted, approved, and published in accordance with NRS 244.100.

23-0449 **AGENDA ITEM 19** Public Comment.

Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Nate Edwards mentioned that personal attacks were not allowed during public comment and recommended the meeting Chair not allow them.

Mr. Terry Brooks identified hunger as a factor of the homelessness issue. He observed that people lost their cooking utensils, a stove, and refrigeration when they lost their homes. He noted eating uncooked processed foods or fast food was still better than starvation, but those options were expensive. He mentioned there were people in the County who volunteered and donated to the Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN), local churches, the University of Nevada, Reno's (UNR) Pack Provisions, and Urban Roots where they taught youth how to garden. He remarked a child might have food every day if they were taught to garden.

Mr. Geoff Staffelbach mentioned the flooding on Pyramid Highway when it rained. He said the intersection at Eagle Canyon Drive and Pyramid Highway was flooded in all directions. He witnessed a car trying to merge onto Pyramid Highway heading south that stalled in the turn lane. He said vehicles without four-wheel drive had difficulties driving through the intersection, noting the rain pulled cars towards the K-rail barriers. He asserted that something had to be done before anything drastic happened.

Ms. Valerie Fiannaca inquired about the Elections Group, the Porter Group, and whether the Commissioner for District 3 lived in her district full-time. She indicated that law enforcement did nothing in the past when elected officials broke the rules about where they lived. She said she was tired of the two-tiered system of justice. She asserted the ethics commission was corrupt according to the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. She asked what serfs were supposed to do when the entire system was corrupt, and suggested elections needed to be fixed. She expressed consternation with Library Director Jeff Scott's plan to use a portion of property tax dollars for a marketing campaign that would extend Pride Week into Pride Year set to start in August. She alleged that Library Board of Trustees (LBT) chair Amy Ghilieri assumed she would be reappointed. Ms. Fiannaca asked for the position to be opened up to the community.

Ms. Sandee Tibbett thanked Vice Chair Herman for filling in as Chair for this meeting. She believed the Country and the County had been stolen and elected officials no longer represented the interests of residents. She stated residents were systematically being stripped of their rights and liberties one by one. She expressed displeasure with the search required to enter the Chambers, the removal of public comment at the beginning of the meeting, the economy, and County roads and bridges. She said public infrastructure was slowly falling apart and downtown Reno was no longer vibrant. She spoke about the

immigration system, the homeless industrial complex, the education system, the military, free speech, freedom of assembly, voting concerns, and the rewriting of history.

Mr. Roger Edwards said he was a 50-year resident of Washoe County and participated in the Planning Commission (PC) and the Regional Planning Commission, but he was not considered when he applied for a volunteer position at the Registrar of Voters (ROV) Office. He spent 23 years on the North Valleys Citizen Advisory Board (CAB), so he worked for the County for a long time. He conjectured about possible corruption in the ROV volunteer selection process and believed it needed to be revamped. He was encouraged by the *Reno Gazette-Journal (RGJ)* article that discussed revamping the ROV Office including the volunteer issue. He said there were many good volunteers in the County that he asserted needed to be considered. He hoped the Board would encourage the ROV to consider the pool of available volunteers.

Ms. Nichelle Hull agreed with the statements made by other public commenters about getting a fresh outlook on boards and commissions. She thought it would be simple to generate a consolidated list of openings on boards and commissions that could be sent out to a distribution list. The list could then be forwarded to radio stations, UNR, and human resources (HR) associations for maximum exposure. She said a consolidated list could provide fresh minds and ideas on issues. She opined that describing the comments of Commissioners did not constitute a personal attack. She referred to a comment made by Commissioner Garcia, noting many of her constituents were Hispanic and Catholic adults who were concerned about the safety of children. Ms. Hull felt that lumping people into a negative term like “book burner” was discriminatory.

Mr. Scott Finley said he had a military background in the financial management and comptroller career field of the United States Air Force (USAF). He shared that someone recently told him he was wrong, and he questioned whether it was wrong to ask questions, to want to be educated about how local government functioned, to get involved in his community, and to seek perfection. He questioned if it was wrong to not want pornographic books in the children’s section of libraries or schools, to want to stop the cycle of abuse, and to not want pedophiles harming children. He said that repeatedly making the same mistakes was failing, which he thought the Board demonstrated.

Ms. Victoria Myer showed an image of Christopher Daniels, also known as Miss Ginger Devine, who was the current drag queen story hour (DQSH) reader. The image included the flag she referred to earlier which she said was displayed at the White House along with the pride flag. She said she did not care what adults did, but she wanted to show that the pride issue was based on sexual orientation. She asserted she was not a book burner because she did not care what adults read; she cared about what was in schools and what children read. She named two books that were banned in some places and were available in Washoe County, one in the middle schools and one in the high schools. The books were titled *The Bluest Eye* and *Looking for Alaska*. She spoke about the reasons why those books had been banned and challenged. She reiterated she was not a book burner, stating she just wanted to protect children from obscene and pornographic material.

Ms. Janet Butcher thanked County Clerk Jan Galassini and the Clerk's Office staff, recognizing they tolerated a lot. She attended the LBT meeting at Incline Village (IV) the prior week and observed that some of the attendees were not aware of what was happening in the libraries and the community. She disapproved of LBT chair Amy Ghilieri's efforts as chairperson and believed Ms. Ghilieri assumed she would be reappointed to the position. She said she asked Mr. Scott why the library did not promote other events like Independence Day, Constitution Day, or anything patriotic. She had not received an answer but was told she could request a meeting room. She asserted none of the public commenters said they wanted to ban books. She displayed a document that was placed on file with the Clerk. The document promoted a film about child traffickers called *Sound of Freedom* which would be in theaters on July 4.

Ms. Penny Brock emphasized none of the public commenters called for banning books or censorship. She referred to Item 12 which was just approved and expressed confusion because the contract amount exceeded the amount permitted by the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS). She noted that according to NRS, contracts exceeding \$100,000 needed to be approved by the Board, but the Washoe County Handbook (WCH) allowed contracts up to \$300,000. She thought this represented a legal issue because NRS superseded the WCH. She conjectured the K & H Printers' order for ballots could be stopped because they were not currently printing the ballots. She thought Vice Chair Herman's election proposal needed to be heard first because it might result in paper ballots, hand counting, and no voting machines. She noted there was no Board oversight on the LBT and suggested a Commissioner and an alternate needed to be placed on that board. She requested a library CAB.

Ms. Deborah Sauk observed that Commissioner Clark's request for a discussion and vote to move public comment to the beginning of the meeting was not on the agenda. She said Commissioner Clark made the law and Statute clear. She asked that Commissioner Clark's request and the legal precedent be followed.

Ms. Katherine Snedigar stated she was a non-person, non-resident, unenfranchised natural-born American woman. She asserted that Statutes, Codes, and Ordinances were not law. She said public law in the State was repealed in 1947 and was replaced with the copyrighted NRS in 1967, which made it a corporation. She questioned how the State of Nevada could be an agency or an organization and who the agency was for, conjecturing it was for the federal government. She stated she was not a member of the State of Nevada organization or agency, so Codes and Ordinances did not apply to her. She spoke about the definition of a person according to the State and said she rejected any idea that challenged her position as a woman and not a person.

Ms. Val White mentioned the applicants for the Assistant Registrar of Voters (AROV) position had been interviewed and she looked forward to hearing who would be selected. She understood that a very qualified candidate had been interviewed and she wondered why the candidate had not heard back. She suggested all interviews be videotaped so the Commissioners could review them. With regard to personal attacks versus criticisms, she noted the First Amendment did not indicate people could not say

something others disliked, and not liking what people said did not give the Commissioners the right to stop them. She suggested the Commissioners review the First Amendment so they could understand it better. She commented she felt attacked by many of the votes made by the Board when her rights and freedoms were personally affected. She expressed displeasure about the flags displayed in the Chambers and opined that public comment needed to be brought back.

Ms. Susan Vanness wished America and Vice Chair Herman a happy birthday. She played an audio recording of “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

Deputy County Clerk Lauren Morris advised the Board she received an emailed public comment, which was placed on file.

23-0450 **AGENDA ITEM 20** Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Clark reiterated his request for a vote to return public comment to the beginning of the meeting. He declared the Board members needed to hear what the people had to say, regardless of whether they agreed with the public’s comments. He spoke about elections and noted that two Board members would be up for re-election this year. He reported the concerns of people who regularly made public comments were generally representative of the concerns expressed to him by other community members he met with.

Commissioner Clark requested an agenda item to discuss short-term rentals (STRs). He stated there was concern from residents in Incline Village (IV) and he wanted to get the item on an agenda as soon as possible so there was no speculation that any Board members were pandering to someone before an election. He pointed out the two Washoe County Sheriff’s Office (WCSO) deputies who had been assigned to sit in the Chambers during the meeting and wondered why staff had requested their presence as the County already had security guards from a private company to assist during meetings.

Commissioner Andriola mentioned the Board of County Commissioners’ (BCC) appointment to the Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority (RTAA) the previous week. She spoke about the caliber of the applicants for the position and thought they could be considered for a different opportunity with the RTAA that was in the process of being created. She reported she reached out to the RTAA regarding this new opportunity and offered to send the list of applicants who had not been selected by the BCC. After speaking with the RTAA, she reached out to the applicants to see if they were interested in being considered for this opportunity and they seemed eager to participate. She suggested the BCC should consider this in the future if a similar scenario were to occur.

Commissioner Clark spoke about the qualifications of one of the applicants and expressed consternation that she was not appointed to the RTAA by the City of Reno. He thought someone who had a working knowledge of how to run the airport should have been appointed to that board.

Vice Chair Herman reiterated her desire to place her election integrity resolution on an agenda.

* * * * *

3:07 p.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

ALEXIS HILL, Chair
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

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

Minutes Prepared by:
Carolina Stickley, Deputy County Clerk
Taylor Chambers, Deputy County Clerk
Lauren Morris, Deputy County Clerk