



LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 1, 2012
Commission Chambers
Lincoln County Courthouse
181 Main Street
Pioche, Nevada

Commissioners

Paul Mathews
Kevin Phillips
Tommy Rowe
Paul Donohue
Ed Higbee

#1-CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Tommy called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Clerk Lisa Lloyd called the roll.

PRESENT: PAUL MATHEWS
ED HIGBEE
PAUL DONOHUE
KEVIN PHILLIPS
TOMMY ROWE

LISA LLOYD, Clerk
LESLIE BOUCHER, Recorder/Auditor
DAN MCARTHUR, Auditor

There is a quorum present and the agenda was posted on 5-24-12. The Invocation was offered by Kevin and Paul M. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#2-PUBLIC COMMENT

Tommy called for public comment; none offered.

#3-FY 2013 BUDGET

Dan McArthur reviewed the proposed FY 2012-2013 budget. The General Fund budget is based on costs that were in effect as of June 2011; this budget reflects numbers from that time. The ending fund balance is approximately \$250,000, which is slightly above the minimum amount required. Paul M. advised that he doesn't see the need for changes at this point and suggested that the Board approve it as it currently stands. Negotiations with the Law Enforcement Association have been proceeding well. **Paul M. made a motion to approve the FY 2012-2013 budget with no changes; seconded by Kevin. All voted in favor.** The approved budget includes taking the numbers back to 2011 with a 5% cut; all employees, union or non-union, will go back to 2011 wages minus 5%. Elected officials' salaries will remain as they are, pursuant to statute. Mercedes Howard asked the Board how the non-union employees go about setting up negotiations meetings with the Commissioners. Paul M. responded that the Board will apply the cuts as fairly as possible for non-union employees. Once the large groups of union employees are finished with negotiations, the Board will try and apply the same negotiated results to the non-union employees. Leslie asked what she does come July 1 if negotiations aren't finished. Paul M. responded that, by law, Leslie will have to write the checks as they are; nothing will change. Dan commented that all the Board is doing today is passing the budget; they aren't passing cuts to anyone's salaries. The Board will be forced to live within the constraints of this budget once passed. What everyone is being paid today is what they will be paid on July 1, unless negotiations are complete and decisions have been made. Melanie commented that the non-union people will be cut 5% come July 1. That's not true, a vote hasn't been taken to cut anyone 5%. Melanie said the budget is still 5% less in the wage categories. No wages have been cut at this point, only wage categories within the budget. Daniel said that the law says everything is retroactive; if cuts are made they will have to be taken from paychecks. Unless the Board approves an effective date. Right now the Commissioners are making decisions based on the best information that they have; right now it isn't known what insurance rates will be. The Board will have to deal with those increases when they happen. There are more outstanding issues that aren't addressed in the budget because there aren't answers. These issues will have to be dealt with as they come. The budget is due today. What the Commissioners ultimately decide may not be what's reflected in the budget. If that's done, then this budget could be short. The Board will have to figure out how to make required adjustments and deal with all costs without shorting the budget. The revenue flow coming into the county has gone flat; this is what's caused all the problems. The county is still spending at a deficit as well; this can't be sustained if the revenue curve doesn't

change. Melanie commented that she understands, the problem is how it was done and approved. Starting July 1, if Leslie has to keep paying everyone the same amount, something will happen. It's pretty cut and dried that the non-union employees will take a 5% cut. Melanie asked if the non-union employees can choose to take the cut now so they don't have to pay it back. Paul M. responded that action will be taken by July 1 to set the necessary cuts/changes in motion. Sheriff Kerry Lee reminded the department heads that if the Board is unable to come to an agreement with the unions they have to give a decent amount of notice to those who have to be laid off and we're running out of time. Kerry hopes the negotiations will happen quickly so that department heads have plenty of time for notifications. One Commissioner, a department head, and a non-union employee can meet to negotiate for non-union. Brenda Cole commented that the budget is still split into thirds but in February, 50% of Denice Brown's salary was moved to MVJC. Brenda stated that their budget is short approximately \$8,000. Judge's retirement has increased to 40.3. Paul M. asked Dan to make the necessary changes to MVJC budget, to include the 50% of Denice's salary. Dan commented that this budget right now is a skeleton blue print of what may happen this coming year. It's set up so the fund balance will be reasonable. When the negotiations take place, and we know what every office will be specifically for wages, then there will be a need to make transfers. Paul D. commented that the question asked at the beginning of the year was what do the wages need to be set at to keep everyone working. The Board's goal is to keep everyone working. Yes, it is less money, but it's a job. Those who get laid off will have to go elsewhere to find work, and the Board doesn't want this to happen. The budget is tight enough that the Board can't make the statement that no one will be laid off, but they are trying to avoid that. The other direction was for the county to live within its means. Tommy called for the vote. **All voted in favor.**

#4-PUBLIC COMMENT

Tommy called for public comment. Ed thanked the Board members and Dan McArthur for their hard work on this budget. Ed stated that he hopes the people understand that their desire is to do the best for those living in the county. Ed hopes that we can get through this and get some positive growth in the county. Ed appreciates everyone's work for the county.

#5-ADJOURN

There being no further business for the Board to attend to, Paul M. adjourned the meeting at 9:53 a.m.

Attest: _____ Approve: _____