



LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 21, 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

Chairman Tommy Rowe called the meeting to order at 9:16 a.m. Clerk Lisa Lloyd called the roll.

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

LISA LLOYD, Clerk
TONY GRAF, Deputy District Attorney

There is a quorum present and the agenda was posted on 5-15-12. The Invocation was offered by Kevin and Paul D. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#2-PUBLIC COMMENT

Tommy called for public comment. Louise Carlson has lived in Pioche for 15 years. Louise stated that May 4 her husband was outside and was notified that an inmate escaped the jail. Louise understands that LC uses the reverse 911 system. This system uses public numbers obtained from LCTS; most residents of the county have cell phones, not land lines. Louise's daughter never received a call from the SO concerning the escapee. Those who did get a call received it about an hour after the incident; conflicting information was received. Louise asked that all residents be notified of the reverse 911 system so that they might be allowed to register and the SO will have more accurate information. Louise asked why anyone who is in the jail is allowed in the yard without supervision and stated that SO failed to protect the residents of this county on that Friday. The escapee knocked on doors; he was bleeding profusely and claimed he'd been hurt in an ATV accident. The first door he knocked on belonged to a single woman. She locked the door. The second door he knocked on belonged to a young man who hadn't received the notification of the escapee; he took the inmate to Caliente to go to the hospital. It is frightened to imagine what could've happened to the young man because he didn't receive the notice that an inmate had escaped. Most doors in Pioche are left unlocked, and most residents own guns. The possibilities of what could've happened are frightening. Louise suggested that alarm horns be installed and residents notified as to their meaning. Louise stated that it's illegal to talk on a cell phone while driving; she sees the deputies talking on their cell phones often and asked that they be required to purchase blue tooth. Louise asked the Board to take immediate action to ascertain the problems and fix them.

CONSENT AGENDA

#3 Approve/Deny minutes of April 25, May 10, May 14, and May 7 meetings.

#4 Approve/Deny original and renewal business licenses with staff recommendations (an itemized list of business licenses is available for public review in the Building Department prior to the meeting).

Kevin made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the exception of the minutes; seconded by Paul M. All voted in favor.

#5-VOUCHERS

Recorder/Auditor Leslie Boucher presented the vouchers and cash balance report. General County has a balance of \$659,810.33 with estimated expenditures being \$149,813.54. General County will have a balance of \$509,996.79. Transportation has a cash balance of \$16,273.69 with estimated expenditures being \$2,709.68. This will leave Transportation with a balance of \$13,564.01. Senior Nutrition has a balance of \$15,319.32 with estimated expenditures being \$11,086.28. This will leave Senior Nutrition with a balance of \$4,233.04.

Detention Center has a negative cash balance of \$104,892.88 with estimated expenditures being \$78,968.05. Detention Center will have a negative balance of \$183,860.93. Solid Waste has a cash balance of \$70,867.77 with no estimated expenditures. Solid Waste owes LC Water Special Projects, Fund 87, \$27,484.15. Airport has a balance of \$10,613.37 with estimated expenditures being \$242.32. Airport will have a balance of \$10,371.05. Airport loan is due 6-30-12 in the amount of \$6,000. Planning has a balance of \$34,892.69 with expenditures being \$3,272.52. Planning will have a balance of \$31,620.17. Building Department has a balance of \$69,294.63 with estimated expenditures of \$4,078.81. Building Department will have a balance of \$65,215.82. Leslie questioned the bill for Terry Williams; \$90.01 is being questioned. This invoice will be held for the next meeting so that Leslie may research it. **Paul M. made a motion to approve the vouchers as presented with the exception of Mountain Merc and LCTS vouchers; seconded by Ed. All voted in favor. Ed made a motion to approve the Mountain Merc vouchers; seconded by Paul M. Kevin disclosed that he is part owner of that company; he abstained from the vote and conversation pertaining to Mountain Merc. Motion carried. Ed made a motion to approve the LCTS vouchers; seconded by Paul M. Paul D. abstained as he is employed by LCTS. Motion carried.**

#6-OFFICER/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR Rick Stever advised that he will be attending an emergency preparedness workshop in Las Vegas 5-23. Rick will attend the NV Public Health Division Emergency Preparedness Summit in Fallon. **CLERK** Lisa Lloyd reported that she will start programming for the Primary Election later today.

#7-HIGHWAY COMMISSION

This item is handled under separate agenda.

#8-TAX RATE

This is the time set for public hearing on the tax rate for Lincoln County, Alamo Town, Panaca Town, Pioche Town, Southeastern Habitat Conservation General Improvement District (GID), Lincoln County Fire District, Pioche Fire District, and Panaca Fire District. None of the tax rates have changed. Tommy called for public comment; none offered. **Paul M. made a motion to adopt the tax rate for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012; seconded by Paul D. All voted in favor.**

#9-LINCOLN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT

This item is handled under separate agenda.

#10-PANACA FIRE DISTRICT

This item is covered under separate agenda.

#11-COYOTE SPRINGS GID

This item is covered under separate agenda.

#12-LC SOUTHEASTER HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN GID

This item is covered under separate agenda.

#13-FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013 BUDGET

This is the time set for public hearing and possible adoption of the FY 2012-2013 budgets for Lincoln County, Pioche Town, Panaca Town, Alamo Town, and Lincoln County Regional Transportation Commission. Tommy called for public comment; none offered. Dan McArthur addressed the Board. If this budget is approved as the final today then this will be the final budget and no changes can be made. Dan stated there are no issues with Alamo Town, Panaca Town, RTC budgets. There is no need to approve a final budget until June 1. The bottom line will remain the same, regardless of holding more budget hearings. Action will have to be taken to make the budget fit the amount of funding available if negotiations don't align with the proposed budget. Paul M. has reservations approving this budget today as he realizes what the consequences will be for the county if we can't negotiate the wages into the position the Board needs them to be in. Paul M. feels there are a few things that can be addressed with the Sheriff and some of the other offices that will help to create a budget that is as close to reality as possible. Paul M. doesn't want to submit a budget that we can't live with. No action is taken on the

General County budget today; a special meeting for the budget will be held on June 1 at 9 a.m. **Kevin made a motion to approve Pioche Town, Panaca Town, Alamo Town, and RTC budgets; seconded by Ed. All voted in favor.** There is some discussion concerning using \$20,000 from the Land Act Education Fund for Sheriff's education. Dan advised that the proposed budget includes \$20,000 for education. Dan addressed Fund 14. \$39,000 in revenue will be shown and \$39,000 in services/supplies will be shown. Dan discussed the Alamo Clinic Fund; property taxes are levied and transferred to the hospital for use. This fund should have a zero ending fund balance. Dan addressed the Resource Development Fund; all of the monies will be budgeted. Fund 72 is budgeted in full. All funding budgeted for salaries/wages will be moved to services/supplies. LC Water Emergency Disaster Fund is budgeted to spend the entire dollar amount. LC Land Act General Fund is budgeted at 100%. LC Emergency Disaster Fund is budgeted at 100%. The Public Improvement Fund is budgeted for the full amount of estimated carryover, \$149,733.

#14-AUGMENTATION

This is the time set for public hearing on resolutions to augment various funds. Tommy called for public comment; none offered. **Paul D. made a motion to approve the resolution to augment Alamo Town Fund in the amount of \$5,110; seconded by Ed. All voted in favor. Paul D. made a motion to approve the resolution to augment the Detention Center Enterprise Fund in the amount of \$20,000 from the LC Water Special Project fund and \$50,000 from General County; seconded by Ed. All voted in favor. Kevin made a motion to approve the resolution to augment China Springs Fund in the amount of \$1,000 from General County; seconded by Ed. Paul D. is opposed. Motion carries.**

#15-MEDICAL TRAINING COURSE

Beau Carlson requested \$3,900 in financial assistance for an EMT basic course. This is an accelerated program; he would be certified in 14 days. Should he fail the test the first time he has up to a year to take the test again. If the ambulance association endorses him, he can receive a reduction in costs. Beau has spoken with Missy Rowe; she is looking for funding. Currently, the county pays a portion towards EMT certification, but the training takes place here in the county. After passing the course, the new EMTs are required to serve for a certain period of time. The cost of the county courses/manuals is only a few hundred dollars. There is some discussion concerning Beau paying this loan back. Beau has had to go on a couple of runs as there has been no one else to do it. The level of training offered by this facility is some of the highest available within the nation. This course is only two weeks long instead of the three months required for those that attend class within the county. Paul M. worries about consistency; if the county pays for Beau to do this course, then the county had better be ready to pay for the next people that want to take this course. If this is going to be done, it should be funded through the Ambulance Fund. Paul M. suggested that this be worked through Missy. Rick Stever commented that he's been approached by another individual who indicated that there are two-three who are interested in this type of a program. Paul M. asked Rick if he has access to any grants that will blend with the ambulance's efforts to get this done; yes, funding would be available through LC Fire District. Beau is currently a member of the Panaca Fire Department. Paul M. asked that this be organized through the ambulance department or fire departments, and that a fund and qualification process be established so that we have a system in place. Beau stated he's volunteered for the last several years and passed every course he's enrolled in. The Ambulance Association just purchased a new ambulance and is now short on funds. There is nearly \$40,000 in the Ambulance Fund and \$69,000 in Ambulance Capital Projects. Paul M. reiterated the need for established guidelines for this process. Paul M. asked that Rick and Missy work together to establish a program, rather than an individual instance. Paul D. recommended that a couple people be sent to this course at a time as there is more benefit to having people that know each other work together. Paul M. commented that if the county is going to start using other funds they need to be granted to the ambulance; this provides parameters. These funds would have to be administered with a contract; once the person is educated they should be required to reimburse. This is the reason that the funding for the course is approved once a local individual has finished the course. No action is taken; Beau and Rick will work with Missy.

#16-WESTERN COUNTIES ALLIANCE

Ken Brown of Western Counties Alliance proffered an update on public lands issues, including geothermal, PILT, Forest Service travel management planning, sage grouse, grazing fees, transfer of public lands, and wild horse burro.

#17-MEADOW VALLEY WASH PROJECT

Paul D. made a motion to approve Change Order #1 for Kokopelli Landscaping on the Meadow Valley Wash project; seconded by Ed. Kevin disclosed that his son is a principle engineer for Sunrise Engineering; he abstained. Motion carried.

#18-RITA CHEENEY

Glennon Zelch presented a request for a longevity pay increase of 5% for Rita Cheeny, effective date May 1, 2012. Cindy Free commented that the last contract that was completed included this increase. The pay scale presented is based on the last contract. Rita works full time, 21-22 hours per week, and her benefits are prorated. Paul M. asked Glenn and Cindy if there is a way for the Board to approve general things, but not individual things like this. Does PPU have to be incorporated and separate? Is there a way to give PPU the authority to operate within their budget? Paul M. questioned how he can sit there and give a 5% increase in this budget, when he may be cutting people in other budgets. Glenn stated that originally it was set up so that PPU would hire their own people and assume the responsibility of their budget. Tony will research the language to see if this PPU can be separated from the county. Tony suggested that this item be tabled. Cindy stated that it is important that these employees have a chance to represent themselves in negotiations as they aren't union. Dawne Combs stated that the Planning Commission was an advisory board in the past; a resolution and ordinance had to be passed to allow PC the authority that they now have. Dawne asked who will pick up the tab if the utility goes in the red. Paul M. feels there should be overarching management, but that management shouldn't deal with day-to-day things. Pioche's insurance is through the county as are benefits. No action is taken on this item.

#19-PIOCHE PUBLIC UTILITIES RATE INCREASE

LC Power District adopted an approximately \$6.97 charge per meter. This additional charge will have to be passed on to PPU customers. PPU will charge \$6.99 to each customer for electrical, plus \$.05 for water and \$.03 for sewer. This will be effective June 1. Phyllis Robistow stated that she believes this rate will increase in a few more months as LCPD doesn't have the correct number of meters. It is estimated that it will take 12 years for this charge to sunset and it will increase 3% every year. **Paul D. made a motion to approve the rate increase; seconded by Ed. All voted in favor.**

#20-RESOLUTION #2012-11

This item concerns a resolution authorizing the increase of Pioche Public Utility reconnection fees. PPU will charge a \$50 fee to have the water/power turned off, and a \$75 fee for after hours/weekends. This will not affect regular customers. **Kevin made a motion to approve the resolution; seconded by Paul D. All voted in favor.**

#21-LABOR DAY CELEBRATION

Glenn Zelch presented a request from Pioche Town for a waiver of Special Event permits/fees for Labor Day. Anyone directly tied to the Labor Day Committee falls under this waiver, as it falls under Pioche Town. There is some discussion about the history of this issue; fees and permits for Labor Day Committee were resolved permanently and waived last year. No action is taken.

#22-MATHEWS DROP STRUCTURE

The Board discussed designation of a fund to pay the remaining LC Road Department invoices for repair of the Mathews Drop Structure in the amount of \$1,965. **Paul D. made a motion to approve the payment of this invoice from Fund 88; seconded by Kevin. All voted in favor.**

#23-MUSEUM BOARD

This item was tabled.

#24-LC NUCLEAR OVERSIGHT PROGRAM

Connie Simkins offered an update on nuclear waste. NRC Chairman has indicated his intention to resign. There will be no trip expenses for attendance at the ECA meeting in June. Connie has been working to purchase school security handbooks for the local schools; there are 9 schools and there is money in the supplies budget to cover this expense. Connie is working on getting a list of people who will receive the run

books. Connie has been working with Tracy Lee and Jason Pitts to complete the necessary upgrades to get the E911 system up and running as it should. Connie has been contacted by Brad Walch concerning oral histories that were submitted to UNR in the past. Connie met with Irene Navis from Clark County last week.

#25-29-NUCLEAR OVERSIGHT CONTRACTS

Kevin made a motion to approve the Resource Concepts, Inc. contract for \$40,000, Bret Whipple contract in the amount of \$20,000, Core Geo Data contract in the amount of \$60,000, Robison/Seidler contract in the amount of \$40,000, and Intertech Services contract in the amount of \$55,000; seconded by Paul M. Paul D. is opposed as he'd rather see the funding used to keep the nuclear oversight office open. Motion carries.

#30-COMMISSIONER REPORTS

COMMISSIONER PAUL MATHEWS continues to work on negotiations. **COMMISSIONER TOMMY ROWE** has been attending the Local Elected Officials meetings with regards to Southern NV Workforce Investment Board. Tommy received a call from Wes Henderson on 5-12. Wes was coming through LC with a couple of commissioners from Oregon. Tommy had them over for dinner and took them on a small tour of the county. Tommy stated that the number of people that came to LC for the solar eclipse was surprising. The closing of 318 also brought some extra traffic through the county. **COMMISSIONER ED HIGBEE** asked what the room tax rates are for RV Park. Ed also asked about the parameters for living in senior housing within the county. Ed attended the Airport Authority meeting; they are working to get a fuel tank at Panaca airport. **COMMISSIONER PAUL DONOHUE** continues to work on negotiations as well. A resignation for a Pioche Town Board member was submitted; it will be addressed at a future meeting.

#31-PUBLIC COMMENT

Tommy called for public comment. None offered.

#32-ADJOURN

There being no further business for the Board to attend to, Tommy adjourned the meeting at 2:28 p.m.

Attest: _____ Approve: _____