



## LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 7, 2016  
Commission Chambers  
Lincoln County Courthouse  
181 Main Street  
Pioche, Nevada

### Commissioners

Paul Mathews  
Kevin Phillips, Chair  
Adam Katschke, Vice Chair  
Paul Donohue  
Varlin Higbee

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

Kevin called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Clerk Lisa Lloyd called the roll.

PRESENT: PAUL DONOHUE  
ADAM KATSCHKE  
KEVIN PHILLIPS  
VARLIN HIGBEE  
PAUL MATHEWS

LISA LLOYD, Clerk  
DANIEL HOOGE, District Attorney

There is a quorum present and the agenda was posted on 3-1-16. The Invocation was offered by Varlin and Paul D. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **#2-PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kevin called for public comment. Maleen Millmine addressed the Board concerning her electric bill with Pioche Public Utilities. Her bill went from \$189 to \$516. Her mother-in-law's also increased. Maleen understands that if she uses it then she must pay for it. Maleen asked how her bill could jump so incredibly high. This increase puts a hardship on her as her bills are itemized each month and budgeted for. Maleen called the NV Commission on Public Utilities, who advised her to come to the Commission meeting. Maleen has been told by PPU that she could be set up on a payment plan. Maleen is concerned that this could happen again. Maleen has spoken with Nathan Adams about RFID meters, which are computerized and the reader uses a hand held interrogator. Maleen has been told that she will not be charged late fees for the payments on her power. Maleen questioned how often the drastic increases will happen. Kevin stated that the Pioche Town Board is an advisory board to the Commission. Kevin directed Maleen to go to the PTB to discuss this. Nathan will be looking into this to see if there is any type of mechanical reason causing the increase. Nathan Adams commented that the issue is that the meter at the end of January was misread so the bill was low for January. The usage for December was over 3,000kw but the usage in January was 1,200kw. When it was read in February it was combined. Nathan stated that they can't afford to change all of the meters to radio read meters right now although 80% of the town us currently radio read. The method PPU uses to read meters isn't foolproof. Maleen understands that mistakes happen but this is astronomical. The impact on her finances is severe. PPU has told Maleen they won't cut off her electricity.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- #3 Approve/Deny minutes of the February 16 meeting.  
#4 Approve/Deny original and renewed business licenses according to staff recommendations (an itemized list of business licenses is available for public review in the Building Department prior to the meeting).

**Adam 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 cash balance report. General County has a balance of \$932,700.34 with estimated expenditures being \$180,908.58. General County will have a balance of \$751,791.76. There are several budget augmentations on today's agenda. Leslie will be augmenting the Vehicle Capital fund as well as the Fair fund; these will be on the next agenda. **Adam made a motion to approve the vouchers as presented with the exception of the LCTS and A&H Katschke, LTD vouchers;**

seconded by Varlin. All voted in favor. Adam made a motion to approve the LCTS vouchers; seconded by Varlin. Paul D. disclosed he is an employee of the telephone company; he abstained. Motion carried. Paul D. made a motion to approve the A&H Katschke, LTD vouchers; seconded by Varlin. Adam disclosed he is the owner of that business; he abstained. Motion carried.

#### **#6-OFFICER/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**TREASURER** Shawn Frehner presented the monthly report. \$1,867,885.82 is the amount of receipts for February. The last installment for taxes is due today. The tax sale will take place the first part of April. Delinquent list has been sent to the DA's office for landfill fees. Mercedes is working on the letters. **CLERK** Lisa Lloyd reported that candidate filing opened today and goes through March 18. **PPU MANAGER** Nathan Adams advised that the power study is moving forward. Dave Luttrell is ready to give a report that states what the power rates would be if LCPD took over Pioche. Pioche Town Board is considering hiring Dan McArthur's office to analyze the reports. **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR** Rick Stever advised that we've had two power issues in the last two weeks, one was in Caliente and the other was Countywide. When the power goes out it affects the elderly, especially when the temperatures are low. The power outage yesterday lasted several hours. The problem has been repaired. Rick received several phone calls from concerned citizens. There is a program in place for the delivery of oxygen during these events; individuals simply need to contact Rick so he can make arrangements for the bottles to be delivered. Rick stated that approval has been received to reallocate grant monies for the purchase of the AEDs. Wherever the AEDs get distributed to, it will be that entity's responsibility to maintain the machines as well as purchase pads and batteries. The AEDs have been ordered and a list of where the machines are to be located will be created. **GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR** Elaine Zimmerman advised that a state compliance officer from DEM will be here this week to audit some of the grants. Elaine will be traveling part of this week. **LC NUCLEAR OVERSIGHT PROGRAM COORDINATOR** Connie Simkins advised the N4 Grazing Board has been notified by Division of Water Resources that Jason King has granted applications to F&W for the applications in Pahrnagat Valley that LC and the Grazing Board protested. BLM has made a final document for the Dry Lake Valley North solar energy zone. Connie agrees that it might be more difficult to get a SEZ established there because of all the final rules and regulations. Connie asked if the Board would like her to bring a change of position for SEZ on Ely Springs cattle allotment due to the change in ownership of the allotment and water. The new owner does not want SEZ there. Connie will bring a letter to the Board at the next meeting for consideration. Connie presented a copy of a letter concerning the Wilson Creek allotment approach.

#### **#7-HIGHWAY COMMISSION**

This item was handled under a separate agenda.

#### **#8-LINCOLN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT**

This item was covered under a separate agenda.

#### **#9-BUDGET AUGMENTATION**

Adam made a motion to approve the notice of intention to act on a resolution to augment budgets for the following for FY 2015-2016: Special Projects (transfer from General County Fund) \$22,613, General County Fund (opening balance larger than anticipated) \$641,361, Federal In Lieu (opening balance larger than anticipated) \$145,883, Tri-County Weed Fund (opening balance larger than anticipated) \$192,499, Airport Fund (opening balance larger than anticipated) \$6,666 and to set the public hearing for March 21<sup>st</sup> at 10 a.m.; seconded by Paul D. All voted in favor.

#### **#10-WESTERN ELITE YOUTH FUNDS**

Adam made a motion to approve the request from the LC Fair Committee for the donation of Western Elite Youth funds in the amount of \$2,740 to help with the purchase of award buckles for the LC Fair youth activities; seconded by Paul D. All voted in favor.

#### **#11-GRANTS**

Paul D. made a motion to sign the 2017 agreement to use account for low income housing welfare set-aside funds by LC in the amount of \$10,000; seconded by Varlin. All voted in favor.

#### **#12-GRANTS**

**Paul M. made a motion to sign the request for funds authorization form for the Welfare Set-Aside program; seconded by Paul D. All voted in favor.**

#### **#13-BLM LAND DISPOSAL**

**Paul D. made a motion to approve the letter to the Bureau of Land Management requesting the removal of certain parcels of land listed for disposal under the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004 and the BLM Ely District Resource Management Plan of 2008; seconded by Varlin. All voted in favor.**

#### **#14-YUCCA CHUCKERS MOTORCYCLE RACE**

**Paul M. made a motion to approve the Yucca Chuckers North Pahroc motorcycle race scheduled for March 26, 2016; seconded by Paul D. All voted in favor.**

#### **#15-NUCLEAR WASTE CONSENT BASED SITING**

The Board discussed the consideration, revision, or approval of answers to questions posted by the Department of Energy with regards to consent based siting of nuclear waste. Dr. Mike Baughman presented an overview of DOE's process to develop the voluntary siting procedure. Comments are being solicited from people around the US as to how this should be done. There is a process in place right now via the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. Procedure should require that existing law be followed. Nothing new is being proposed, we are sticking the framework of existing statute. **Adam made a motion to approve the answers; seconded by Paul M. All voted in favor.**

#### **#16-LC COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

Dr. Mike Baughman presented the annual report. **Adam made a motion to adopt the 2015 Annual Report: Lincoln County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and to submit said report to the US Economic Development Administration; seconded by Paul M. All voted in favor.**

#### **#17-LC REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BUDGET**

Dr. Mike Baughman presented the FY 2017 budget adopted by the LC Regional Development Authority. No action was taken on this item.

#### **#18-COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**

**COMMISSIONER PAUL MATHEWS** advised the Tri-County Weed meeting will be rescheduled. **COMMISSIONER VARLIN HIGBEE** attended multiple meetings, including water training. **COMMISSIONER KEVIN PHILLIPS** attended the Tri-County meeting last week. Kevin and Adam along with Sheriff Lee and Captain Davis attended a meeting in Las Vegas concerning the Detention Center on 2-25. **ADAM KATSCHKE** attended the water conference. Adam met with Kevin and the Clark County Commissioners concerning the Detention Center. Adam and Cory will meet with Scott Seastrand of Western Elite tomorrow. Adam will take part in the Brownsfield Coalition conference call this week. Adam will be absent from the next Commission meeting. Adam met with people outside the County concerning LC Power District. Adam would like to make LCPD a countywide entity. Caliente is interested in belonging to LCPD as well. Part of the reason Alamo rejected joining LCPD is because they would comprise 60% of the County but only have one seat on the board. That could change. Adam was given several tips for saving money on power by the people he met with. **COMMISSIONER PAUL DONOHUE** met with Cory and the individuals who work at the Panaca Town Center. The mental health counseling service would like to move from Caliente Depot to the PTC; they're negotiating a plan/lease. Any expenses incurred for remodeling in PTC will be added into the cost of rent. Paul D. attended a Fair Committee meeting as well.

#### **#19-PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kevin called for public comment. Shirley Johnson, BLM, announced that four positions in their office have been filled. BLM is going to submit a request for more SNPLMA funding in the expedited Round 16 cycle. This funding will be used for the non-motorized trail system; BLM will be asking the Board for a letter of support at a future meeting. Paul M. discussed power, which is a very sensitive issue for him. The Alamo Power District

rate hike now causes him to pay \$.08 per KWH to pump water. This puts him at a tremendous disadvantage. Paul M. is going to take this issue on and push the discussion in every direction he can.

**#20-ADJOURN**

There being no further business for the Board to attend to, Kevin adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Approve: \_\_\_\_\_

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