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Description automatically generated**  **Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board**

**Minutes of the regular meeting of the Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board held on**

**December 12, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. at Gerlach Community Center, 410 Cottonwood,**

**Gerlach, NV 89412**

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

A quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

Present – Tina Walters, Russell Bierle, Schatzi Gambrell, Brandy Wilbur  
Absent – Kristy Evans

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

1. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT** – Comment heard under this item will be limited to three (3) minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the agenda. The Citizen Advisory Board will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to three minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the Board as a whole. (non-action item)   
     
   Jonah Blustain introduced himself as the incoming field manager for the BLM Blackrock Field office. He starts on January 13th and has experience with small communities, having worked previously in Tonopah for 7 years.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS OF** November 14, 2024. (for possible action)  
  
Schatzi Gambrell motioned to approve the minutes from the November 14th CAB and Brandy Wilbur seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

1. **PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES –** A Washoe County Sheriff’s Deputy and/or members from the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Fire Department may be available to provide a general community update on public safety (non-action item)  
   Washoe County Sheriff’s Department  
   Jackson Cruz from Washoe County Sheriff's office had nothing to report but opened himself to questions. There were no questions.

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Fire Department  
Captain Johnathen Prichard reported 12 total service calls: 4 medical calls, 1 fire/hazmat, 1 public service and 6 cancelled in route. Flyers for the Vials of Life were passed out. He added that they are also being distributed to the senior center as well as the Post Office. They will also be added to the Gerlach Social Facebook page.   
  
Schatzi Gambrell asked about any funding to return Gerlach to their previous service standard. Captain Prichard had not heard anything. He is currently permanently located up there. He reassured the CAB that Chief Don Pelt is actively working on it. Gambrell reaffirmed that she will be asking for updates every single CAB.

1. **NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB –** Staff to display the online HUB for review by the CAB members and/or attendees to determine if there are new or existing projects. [non-action Item]  
     
   Alexandra Wilson gave an update on December 18th meeting for Article 610 Update- All Districts as a public zoom meeting. She also demonstrated that as she is not in the planning division, she had no knowledge of Article 610 and was able to use the event details function of the Neighborhood Development HUB. She informed the cab that Article 610 accomplishes the following: clarifying requirements for a final map to include 5 lots per map, cleaning up the language to comply with state laws and county requirements, requiring a water supplier certificate, increasing the number of days for map submittal from 60 to 120, and clarifying the presentation date for the final map.   
     
   Russell Bierle asked what Article 610 is and why it needs to be updated. Alex clarified that Article 610 is there to clean up Development language. Any other information, she would have to get back to the CAB once she reaches out to planning.
2. **COMMISSIONER AND BOARD MEMBER ITEMS** — This item is limited to announcements and/or requests for future agenda items by CAB members and potential general announcements from the county commissioner and county manager. (non-action item)

Schatzi Gambrell asked for clarification on the movement of the 7 magic mountains from Clark to Washoe County. Alexandra Wilson confirmed that this was in talks at BCC meetings and that she would reach out to Gabrielle the Washoe County reinvestment manager for more information. Gambrell then brought up that Gerlach is only experiencing 3 days of fire coverage due to a budget miscalculation and miswriting of the contract. She stated that she would like to know more about where, what, how they are trying to secure the funding that they are missing and inquired why they are unable to pull $200,000 from the general fund of $3.7 million dollars to get them back to full staffing. She gave an example that if Reno experienced a dramatic event such as a flood, they would magically find the money.  
  
Tina Walters mentioned her emails with Candee Ramos on getting abandoned vehicles removed from the area. They feel they have hit a brick wall with this item and would like it added to the agenda so they can solve this problem. She would also like the 7 Magic mountains on the agenda as well. Alexandra will let Candee know.

1. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT** – Comment heard under this item will be limited to three (3) minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the agenda. The public is encouraged to submit a “Request to Speak” form to the Board chairman. Comments are to be addressed to the Board as a whole. (non-action item)

Chris Patrell inquired about the insurance process after a fire. His house burned down, and his insurance was billed $10,000 in damages. He hasn’t heard back from his rep yet. His insurance covers $500 meaning he would be paying $9,700 of the cost but has also heard that they just waive the costs after insurance is deducted. Overall, he is seeking clarity on the process.

Alexandra Wilson commented that Manager Brown will be coming to the CABs again starting in 2025 to present on 2024 accomplishments.   
  
Carl Kopeck thanks the fire department and anyone involved in the process for helping get rid of the fire. He also echoed Schatzi’s concern that there is too low of fire department staffing to cover any potential emergencies such as a hunting accident or roll over. He also brought up the burn pile but that there are still properties covered in weeds, presenting another avenue for fire disaster.   
  
Johnathen Prichard suggested that Chris call Chief Pelt for details on why the bill was as much as it was.   
  
Schatzi Gambrell asked about how care flight would work in an emergency situation. Captain Prichard informed her that they should call 911 as always first and that they don’t give out the care flight number. Other delays may be because of any inclement weather. It is up to the piolet if they think they should fly and if it is safe to do so.   
  
Alex informed that CAB that the conversation would need to be had under board member comments to continue do to the nature of the conversation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

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