

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

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

APRIL 16, 2024

PRESENT:

**Alexis Hill, Chair**

**Jeanne Herman, Vice Chair**

**Michael Clark, Commissioner**

**Mariluz Garcia, Commissioner**

**Clara Andriola, Commissioner**

**Janis Galassini, County Clerk**

**Kate Thomas, Assistant 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, County Clerk Jan Galassini called roll and the Board conducted the following business:

**24-0192**      **AGENDA ITEM 3** Invocation.

Mr. Bruce Parks provided the invocation.

**24-0193**      **AGENDA ITEM 4** Public Comment.

Mr. Charles Albright announced he was a river advocate. He noted that he previously invited the Board to explore the Truckee River to examine its safety and the improvements he advocated, including access and trails. He commented that a hazardous dam for the Steamboat Ditch was built and it did not have proper oversight. He claimed no one wanted to discuss solutions for it, and he said it had no fish ladder. He hoped its location within Washoe County meant the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) could explore the possibility of acquiring State funds during the next legislative session to either remodel the ditch or explore alternative solutions for getting water into the ditch to increase river safety. He stated the Ambrose Park dam was further downstream on the Truckee River. It was an abandoned dam that was in the river for over 100 years. He wanted the BCC to obtain funding from the Legislature to remove the dam because it was hazardous and collected metal, rebar, and trees. He explained that certain community members wished to keep the dam for swimming and fishing purposes, but he thought the area would still be desirable for those activities if the dam was removed. He spoke about Chalk Bluff and said it was a low-head dam used by the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) that was illegally built in the 1980s. He stated that after he raised concerns, the dam was modified to include a 45-degree angle, but it was still dangerous. He noted that people tubing on the Truckee River often did not wear a helmet or life jacket. If they flipped over or approached

the dam backward, which was common, they could sustain injuries. He posited the BCC could modify it to make it resemble a water park feature with one or two simple changes. He spoke about a dam near Glendale Avenue that was recently rebuilt for a second time. He asserted the dam was still hazardous, and he was surprised it had not been remodeled for safety. He mentioned it did not have a portage root. He said there was an alternative path around the dam that was not safe that he hoped would be addressed. He declared that TMWA dams were a big issue because they were antiquated. He stated Washoe County and the Cities of Reno and Sparks all owned TMWA and that there was a movement to remove those types of dams from rivers.

Mr. Terry Brooks spoke about the adaptation to hunger that occurred when a person was homeless. He said he ate a healthy diet, tried various new foods, and had cultivated a garden for decades. He remarked that if he did not have a garden or kitchen, he would most likely consume more junk food. He mentioned that food was needed to be physically active, so without proper food consumption, physical activity was not possible. He asserted that walking would be difficult in that case, even if it was known that free food was available at the destination. He said all living beings needed food and liquid nourishment to survive. He stated that hunger and thirst were the most challenging factors to adapt to when homeless.

Mr. Mac Rossi said he was honored to be part of the Washoe County Leadership Academy (WCLA). He praised how much information was shared about the County's departments, and he thanked the Board and County Manager Eric Brown for supporting the program. He praised the work the County did to help the unhoused population. He referenced recent camping ordinances implemented by Reno and Sparks and suggested that areas could be set aside for unhoused people to sleep in their vehicles. He mentioned the fairgrounds, which he thought were only used once or twice per year. He believed the County could implement a program that delivered results similar to the Cares Campus.

Mr. Paul White thought it was regrettable that no public comment was allowed during Mr. Grant Denton's presentation because it could contain lies, and he believed the program was a fraud. He worked with the unhoused population for 50 years and had assisted someone off of the street with the support of his own money. He alleged that the staff at the Cares Campus would never do that. He claimed there was no success at the Cares Campus and that drug use was acceptable at the Safe Camp. He commented that individuals used drugs outside and then returned inside, and the only punishment when someone was caught was a 48-hour ban. He asserted that success meant putting people in apartments. He stated that two deaths occurred at the shelter within the past few weeks. He announced the group Education Crusade had an agreement with Mr. Denton to hold a public debate within the following month. He invited the Board to attend. He declared that Mr. Denton was his friend and that he had respect for the actions Mr. Denton had taken to improve his life. He said he previously asked Mr. Denton what the outcome would be if Mr. Denton had participated in the same program offered at the Safe Camp while being homeless. He stated Mr. Denton's response was that he would be dead or in prison. He implored the Board to ask Mr. Denton about that question.

Mr. Roger Edwards stated he had lived in Washoe County for 50 years. He was shocked at the \$1,122,000,000 budget that would be reviewed and asked if it could be reduced below \$1 billion. He thought the amounts did not make sense. He spoke about homelessness and said he worked with Mr. White, who had a program that could solve Washoe County's homeless situation if the Board implemented it. He wished the Board would be responsible managers of the public interest and cut money wherever possible.

Ms. Stephanie Sellers announced she was the Associate Director of Development for the Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) Foundation. She thanked Vice Chair Herman on behalf of the Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) Program for her gift to veterans and for making a difference in their lives. She said TMCC's intent was to provide those who needed help with affordable education and the resources to be successful citizens. She apologized that VUB Program Director Robert Hernandez could not attend the meeting as he was hosting a veterans conference in Reno. She mentioned that a certificate was sent in recognition of the ongoing support for veterans.

Mr. Roger Scime posited that the aftermath of the 2020 general election revealed the skepticism that a significant portion of Americans had toward its outcome. He said the skepticism catalyzed the coining of the terms election denialism and election deniers. He asserted that if pundits were believed, the percentage of election deniers continued to grow, and he thought there was no reason to disbelieve that was the case. He stated that November's election could elicit an unparalleled crisis in America. If enough voters doubted and did not accept the outcome, it could result in what could be considered an illegitimate government, and there would be no point in holding elections. He observed that the Registrar of Voters (ROV) hired the Elections Group after the 2022 election to prepare an after-action report (AAR) titled 2022 Election Operational Review. He had read the review and agreed with the majority of its recommendations aimed at enhanced operational effectiveness and accuracy of elections. He said the report did not contain information regarding how to ease the concerns of skeptics about the legitimacy of future elections. He said that the Elections Group recommended that a small team of stakeholders and various political party representatives be brought into future discussions. He somewhat agreed with the recommendation but cautioned that the team should not be limited to those roles. He suggested that it include nonpartisans, independents, ordinary voters, and election deniers. He thought the team's goal should be to anticipate and preemptively remedy voter concerns about election outcomes and restore faith in the system. He proposed that the BCC and ROV assemble a team immediately.

Ms. Janet Butcher stated she was an election questioner who wanted the BCC to vote on Vice Chair Herman's election integrity bill. She had received a rule violation for placing a BCC candidate's sign on her fence. She said the violation occurred after one day, even though she had a sign supporting a national candidate up for six weeks that did not receive a rule violation. She spoke about how the County's previous year's budget was outrageous and was passed by three Commissioners. She wondered why Washoe County's budget was two to three times larger than other counties of similar sizes. She appreciated that no deputy sheriffs were at the meeting so they could be free to perform

more important tasks. She felt that Chair Hill should resign as Chair while she ran for reelection.

Ms. Gwen Schwab stated she had lived in Cold Springs for seven years, and she requested additional funding for the area. She visited the Cold Springs Family Center about three times per week, mostly for pickleball. She informed that pickleball was the fastest-growing sport in the world, with tournaments found everywhere. It was an easy game to learn and had no limiting factors such as gender, age, or ability. She said her oldest team member was over 80 years old. Approximately 35 people attended the center's pickleball games over the past few months but only four got to play at a time on the single court. She commented that pickleball brought camaraderie to the area, and she requested funding to support additional pickleball courts that could double as tennis courts, basketball courts, and volleyball courts. She reported that the nets, net stands, and balls used at the center were all donated. She informed that some paddles were also donated. She said there was no pickleball court in her area, so they played in a small gym that was shared with others. She shared an excerpt from Rachel Simon's book *Pickleball for All*. She commented that pickleball increased connection and helped seniors experience companionship. She mentioned a petition that had over 175,000 signatures. She asked that the Board prioritize Cold Springs because the funding would be well spent for years to come.

Chair Hill requested that a member of staff connect with Ms. Schwab regarding forthcoming plans.

Ms. Audrey Bergmann was honored to work for Sierra Nevada Journeys (SNJ), and she wished to provide background information about the nonprofit organization. SNJ began in the back of the since-closed Rocksport Indoor Climbing Center in 2006. She shared its origin story and said the organization's vision was to transform lives by building curiosity, confidence, and connections to nature, especially for traditionally underserved students. SNJ served the community through outdoor science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and youth development programs. She explained that its outdoor programs occurred in local nature areas, such as Galena Creek Regional Park, Oxbow Nature Study area, and at a residential camp about 45 minutes from Reno near the Feather River and Plumas County. She cited recent studies by the Kaiser Family Foundation that demonstrated children spent an average of seven hours per day on screens, compared to four to seven minutes per day of unstructured time outdoors. She stated Washoe County students continued to struggle with the long-lasting impacts of distance learning. She said test scores indicated significant learning gaps in literacy, math, and science, which were more profound for people of color (POC) and those facing financial barriers. She asserted that there was a tremendous need for STEM-based learning in Nevada, as job growth in STEM disciplines was outpacing graduation rates in those fields. She said many children in the community saw a career in STEM as unfathomable. Because STEM careers compensated twice as much as non-STEM careers, comfort and confidence in STEM provided an opportunity to lift children from low-income families out of the poverty cycle. With funding from the BCC the prior year, SNJ developed a new outdoor STEM education program at Sun Valley Regional Park. She stated the successful pilot enabled SNJ to work with hundreds of students in District 3. Through post-program evaluation, they found that

85 percent of students had never visited the park before, 69 percent had never been on a hike before, and 85 percent hoped to return to the park. SNJ relied on program fees and fundraising to sustain its programs, and the donation would help SNJ continue to bring outdoor science education to Washoe County's youth.

Mr. Scott Finley stated he was a Washoe County resident with a military background in the financial management and comptroller career field of the United States Air Force (USAF). He asserted that the BCC had to allow hand counts in future elections. He stated that electronic voting was implemented in the United States (US) around the 2000s, so the Country had ensured accurate election results by hand-counting ballots for almost 200 years. He said that discontinuing hand counting implied the process was inaccurate. He displayed a device that he referred to as the Ballot Counter 5000 and said individuals who worked in a bank or vault would be familiar with it. He demonstrated how the device counted a series of US dollar bills. He explained that the typical procedure at a bank or vault was to use the device to count twice and then hand count twice. He mentioned the point of his demonstration was to illustrate that if parallel hand counting was used by banks and vaults, it should be used for elections.

Mr. Nicholas St. Jon provided documents, copies of which were distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. He announced he was a nonfictional, noncorporate, living human being, and a natural man. He explained that the document he distributed was a Notice of Breach of Contract. He said he also provided an Oath and a private commercial contract, which was delivered on March 11, 2024. He claimed that his First Amendment rights were denied each time the meeting's camera angle changed and did not display his sign. He regarded it as a breach of contract because the Commissioners had each sworn an oath to uphold the US Constitution and Nevada Constitution. He stated the metal detector at the meeting's entrance was unconstitutional because there was no warrant, written policy, or procedure, and no written document could override the rights granted by the Fourth Amendment. He demanded that the metal detector be removed. He discussed information that was provided to Commissioner Andriola, and he asserted that she was in violation of Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and had not resigned, so she had committed a breach of contract. He mentioned she would receive a Notice of Breach of Contract. He stated that he had attended BCC meetings for over three years because he thought the Board did not do its job. He demanded that Chair Hill provide a public town hall meeting, and he stated that a redress of grievances had been requested for over three years. He commented that open dialogue in a public place that allowed for over three minutes of speaking time had still not occurred.

Ms. Heather Borkowski announced that she represented the Adopt a Vet Dental (AAVD) program. She thanked the Board for its continued support of AAVD and said the Board gave veterans their lives back, one smile at a time. She informed that Vice Chair Herman's donation would fund the clinic for one month, which would allow it to serve 45 veterans.

Ms. Patrice Klaich appreciated the number of veterans groups at the meeting. She was a fifth-generation Nevadan who was honored to work at the Veterans

Guest House, a small, local nonprofit organization that served veterans and their families with over 7,000 nights of stays. She thanked Vice Chair Herman for her donation that ensured veterans and their families received necessary medical care at no cost. She said the Veterans Guest House had several programs that provided free lodging, daily meals, and transportation support. She noted the organization had been able to fund a personal care assistant. The assistant checked on veterans who lived alone and needed surgery and could otherwise not receive it because they did not have a designated adult to check them out after anesthesia treatment. The assistant transported the veterans to and from their procedures and made sure they understood their post-op recommendations. She explained the organization provided emergency support and she shared a story about a veteran who recently traveled from Carlin. The veteran had vehicle issues and was provided a new radiator to safely return home. She thanked the Board for the support that enabled that type of assistance.

Mr. Matthew Wilkie said he did not like to share his story but felt it was needed. He explained that he was a homeless teenager who had lived in his car. A family in Spanish Springs took him in and gave him the opportunity to attend school. He now had a successful pharmacy career and owned his own home. He asserted that Mr. Denton, the Cares Campus, and the Safe Camp were not perfect but were useful tools. He wanted the BCC to agendize safe parking. He suggested that staff be directed to explore how a safe parking program could be successfully implemented, possibly with the expansion of the Cares Campus. He believed a safe parking program could reduce crime exploitation and improve mental well-being by fostering a community of support among residents. He posited it could alleviate strain on emergency services and decrease calls for emergency services, specifically at the End of the World Camp. He said it could serve as a transitional space and provide access to the Cares Campus, Hope Springs, and other resources. He hoped his suggestions could be implemented alongside other ordinances. He commended the County's Language Access Plan and stated the County's programs were only as good as those who could access them.

Ms. Chris Garvey announced she was a candidate for the Sparks City Council, Ward 1. She sought clarity on the budget in Agenda Item 7. She informed that she had reached out to the Comptroller's Office through the contact information listed on Washoe 311. She stated her calls to the County's Budget Manager and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) went to voicemail and her email to Commissioner Garcia had not received a response. She received a call from Washoe 311 and was told that, per federal regulations, certain topics were not subject to Open Meeting Law (OML) and could, therefore, not be addressed. She assumed the Washoe 311 representative thought she wanted information regarding labor contract planning. Once she explained she wanted to know if the recommended General Fund transfer of \$3.4 million to the Senior Services Fund would result in an increase, decrease, or maintenance of the current level of funding, she was told that she should send an email request, which they would try to answer. She received an answer stating her questions could be answered after the BCC meeting. She questioned how the public could understand the proposed budget if staff would not answer questions and if Board meetings did not allow for dialogue with voters. She asserted that Vice Chair Herman and Commissioner Clark were the only Commissioners who responded to

inquiries. She referenced the Board's focus areas and said the agenda items spoke about lower revenue expectations and rising costs. She said seniors needed direct communication, and she questioned if the senior and homeless populations would receive more or less funding. She believed seniors should vote out incumbents.

Ms. Sandee Tibbett read from a document, copies of which were distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk.

Ms. Renee Rezendes discussed the budget for the Senior Services Fund and questioned what could be achieved with \$3.4 million. She wanted monthly statements of expenditures for seniors put on the agenda. She said seniors were concerned that they would become a new class of unhoused citizens. She shared that she obtained ballots for disabled individuals and those who qualified for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) during the recent Caucus. She visited several places to reach seniors, and she noted that some apartment complexes for senior citizens would not grant her access. She spoke about an assisted living home for veterans that she had to visit four times before she was granted access. She noted that she was not allowed to put items on its bulletin board, and she asserted the challenges she experienced were not acceptable given the sacrifices veterans made for the Country. She commented that ballots should be hand-counted. She thought it was wrong for undocumented immigrants to enter the County and obtain driver's licenses to register to vote. She stated it was contrary to the US Constitution and appeared as an attempt to control election outcomes. She said Vice Chair Herman needed a microphone with proper volume control, and she indicated there were efforts to make Vice Chair Herman sound incompetent.

Ms. Penny Brock provided documents, copies of which were placed on file with the Clerk. She noted the Supreme Court accepted a case regarding an election in Arizona because new evidence was discovered. The case involved Ms. Kari Lake and Mr. Mark Finchem. She said the process was expedited, and technical expert exhibits and an amicus curiae brief had been filed. She mentioned an injunction that requested a cease in the use of electronic voting machines until a decision was made. She stated the request would include the electronic Dominion voting system used in Washoe County. She asked how the County would conduct the June primary election if the injunction was honored. She posited that decryption keys found in voting machines were equivalent to keeping a vault combination next to the vault door. She quoted the attorney that represented Ms. Lake and Mr. Finchem and said attempts to penetrate electronic voting systems (EVS) would be nearly undetectable. She said the danger in using EVS could no longer be denied, and she declared that being responsible for such critical infrastructure was one of the BCC's primary duties.

Mr. Teddie Craig disclosed that he was formerly unhoused and had spent time incarcerated in the community's criminal justice system. He was released from the criminal justice system four years prior and currently had a beautiful job and lived very comfortably. He shared that he had visited his half-brother at the Cares Campus almost every day. He said his firsthand experience of the Cares Campus contrasted with certain information he heard about it. He expressed gratitude to the Cares Campus for assisting his

brother with housing but stated his brother was using drugs. He also stated that two of his clients had been assisted with housing at the Cares Campus and had died. He observed that when unhoused individuals were given a place to stay, his taxpayer money helped fund it. He questioned why those individuals were not encouraged to obtain employment, as it would establish a foundation of independence. He asserted that his own life was evidence of this. He shared that he intended to open a home for women coming from out of the State who were trying to begin a new life with new life patterns. He mentioned that he attempted to obtain a location for his business but it had proved challenging. He said he had an idea and a plan that were products of his unique vantage point of being engaged in the community. He compared his position to that of the Board and posited that the Commissioners were too far removed from the situation to adequately pose solutions. He noted the prevalence of drugs and alcohol in the homeless community and spoke about the availability of drugs at the Cares Campus. He commended Mr. Denton for his achievements in spite of his struggles and suggested the Board visit the Cares Campus unannounced for additional situational insight. He mentioned that he was a part of Catfish Corporation. He helped people when they exited the prison system and gave them a kickstart because that type of help led him to his current success. He advised that he was available to help in any way he could.

Ms. Valerie Fiannaca discussed the Washoe County School District's (WCSD) budget of \$1.4 billion and said she attended a recent WCSD meeting. WCSD served 59,000 students and was expected to lose 1,500 students within the next year. She commented that Washoe County served 500,000 people with a smaller budget. Although the WCSD was behind by \$1.7 million in the first three months of the year, it resolved its deficit by cutting positions in the special education department. She posited that groups who could not advocate for themselves were bound to suffer regardless of the setting. These were namely seniors, unhoused individuals, and poor people, which she said represented a growing segment of society due to the government. She liked all of the Commissioners personally but thought the government was oppressive and caused citizens to become poorer each day. She thanked Commissioner Garcia for her donation to SNJ because she supported any effort to get children outside and have less screen time. She stated that elementary students at Nick Poulakidas Elementary School recently hacked through security on their school-issued devices to access a pornographic website. She thanked Vice Chair Herman for consistently contributing to great organizations.

Mr. Bruce Foster announced he was a citizen of Washoe County, and he called it the shopping cart capital of Nevada. While driving on Keystone Avenue, he witnessed a gentleman flailing his arms for at least one hour. He questioned how that demonstrated compassion. He discussed comments made by Mr. White and said people were reluctant to go to the Cares Campus. He mentioned a news report he saw that morning. After review, the Nevada Secretary of State's (SOS) Office announced there was no evidence of widespread voter fraud in recent years. He shared that he was a site coordinator at the recent presidential caucus. After a few minutes of chaos, they processed approximately 800 paper votes in two and a half hours and used voter identification. He spoke about a news report he saw on X (formerly known as Twitter) by Clark County journalist Mr. Victor Joecks. It stated SOS Cisco Aguilar issued a report that labeled 76

cases of potential double voting in the 2022 general election as criminal. He said that 29 of the cases were closed with no action from the SOS's Office. He stated SOS Aguilar tried to downplay both the significance of his own report and the possibility of voter fraud. He asserted that the report demonstrated Nevada elections were vulnerable to fraud, especially in tight races. He said election integrity was being questioned, including by people who were much smarter than him.

Ms. Rebecca Marko disclosed she was one of many volunteers at the Cold Springs Family Center for the Family Center Outreach Program that started about one year prior. The center was run by the Lifestyle Homes Foundation, which allowed for the opening of a weekly senior goods and food drive. She noted that she previously emailed each Commissioner inviting them to the food drive. She acknowledged Chair Hill's attendance at one of the drives, and she thanked Vice Chair Herman for her donation. She pointed out that the audience members who wore bright green shirts were also there to express their appreciation. She said the program had a large volunteer group that served between 100 to 250 seniors in Cold Springs. There were no prerequisites for receiving help. The program turned into a weekly social hour where seniors came early to visit and talk and then shop together. All monetary donations were used to purchase produce and healthy food options. She stated the group had a great partnership with the Katie Grace Foundation, which donated food each week. She informed that there was no overhead, as the program was run by volunteers. She asserted that seniors mattered, and she expressed passion for the program.

Mr. Alan Munson announced he was a Washoe County resident who volunteered in the past with a group that worked with the homeless population. He advised that it was important to discern between people who were open to help, those who just wanted to use volunteers, and those who did not want help or to change. He felt the discernment of intentions was extremely important. He thought the presence of drugs at the Cares Campus was not acceptable. He declared he was a senior and that many seniors were part of the community's poor population. He encouraged the Board to ensure the budget provided services for seniors.

Ms. Victoria Myer said she witnessed a broken chain of custody for ballots, which she had seen lying unsupervised in the ROV's hallway with computers from polling locations. She stated she had photo documentation and had filed reports during the 2022 election. She asserted the issue had to be addressed prior to the primary elections. She thought voting machines should be eradicated, and she urged the Board to agendize Vice Chair Herman's election integrity resolution.

**24-0194**      **AGENDA ITEM 5** Announcements/Reports.

Assistant County Manager (ACM) Kate Thomas announced there would be an opening for an at-large seat on the Washoe County Planning Commission for individuals who lived south of the Truckee River. The vacancy would open on April 17, and the application period would close on May 6.

Vice Chair Herman declared that she prepared her election integrity resolution because she wanted the Board to do the right thing. She said one reason she became a Commissioner was because many people expressed their inability to vote for various reasons of no fault of their own. She shared that she once encountered a situation where someone was allowed to vote in her place despite the established protections. She mentioned issues with the chain of custody and counting machines that could be easily manipulated. She noted there were concerns about staff in the Registrar of Voters (ROV) Office being mistreated, and she thought poll watchers and people with legitimate questions about their ballots also got mistreated. She stated she had witnessed rude behavior exhibited towards voters. She shared a story where she could not vote a few years prior because her signature did not match the ROV's records until someone recognized her as a Commissioner. She declared that many deceased individuals were listed on the voter rolls, and she noted that citizens had raised concerns about elections for years. She did not think it was fair to voters that her election integrity resolution had not been agendaized. She said she possessed a list of constituents who did not receive a mail ballot. She shared that she was informed by the District Attorney's (DA) Office that an item was placed on the agenda when a Commissioner either requested it during a public meeting or reached out to the County Manager. She said she had done both on many occasions. She stated the DA's Office informed her that Commissioners would be advised about their request as soon as reasonably possible by the County Manager. She said she felt guilty that the County could not hold an election it was proud of.

Vice Chair Herman informed that a donation would be removed from Agenda Item 10E2. Chair Hill clarified that the Circle of Life Hospice would be removed from the agenda item, and the other donations would remain. Vice Chair Herman confirmed.

Commissioner Clark disclosed that Mr. Gregory Fair was the owner of Northern Nevada Barber Academy in the City of Sparks. He announced that Mr. Fair had volunteered to cut hair at the Cares Campus and the Senior Center at a reduced rate. He stated Mr. Fair completed the necessary paperwork a few months prior. He requested that staff advise when Mr. Fair could begin. He said Mr. Fair, whom he had spoken with the previous day, was trying to perform quality community service.

Commissioner Clark discussed the security review performed at the Second Judicial District Court (SJDC) in 2017. He shared his understanding that none of the review's recommendations were implemented and acknowledged he was not completely sure of that fact. He heard another security assessment had been ordered and he questioned why more money should be spent when it was possible the recommendations would not be implemented.

Commissioner Clark provided a document, copies of which were placed on file with the Clerk. He mentioned he used to head the Assessor's Office. He wanted people to understand the office's functions because they impacted everyone. The Assessor's job was to value property, and the office was responsible for approximately 50 percent of property values in the County, including real estate and improvements on real estate and

businesses. The office managed about 189,000 parcels. He explained that improved properties could contain items such as warehouses, wells, and fences. All improvements had value and that value was pursued by the appraisers. He asserted that everyone who lived in or visited the area was impacted by the Assessor's Office because it valued all business items. He said the Assessor's Office worked with a reduced staff. It had more than 80 employees before the Great Recession but about 60 current employees. He stated the office covered about 50 percent more property than it did 10 to 12 years ago. The Assessor's Office had asked for additional employees, and some employees desired time off. He claimed it was an example of the County denying additional staff to one of its top revenue-producing departments. He suggested that the Board help identify additional funds for revenue-producing departments because it would provide improvements for everyone. He said the Clerk's Office generated a lot of revenue for the County and that the department also worked with fewer employees than in the past. He suggested that a cost analysis be performed to explore how much additional income would be generated if two or three additional employees were hired in the Assessor's Office and Clerk's Office. He was curious how those additions might boost employee morale. He posited that growth in the Assessor's Office should be proportionate to the County's growth.

Commissioner Andriola stated she was eager for Washoe County to implement Checkbook Nevada, which allowed for full transparency of expenditures. She said she had many conversations with State Controller Andy Matthews. She thanked staff and County Manager Eric Brown for their efforts to move the County closer to implementation. She shared that other counties were examining the use of Checkbook Nevada, and she thought its use was imperative. She wanted it to come before the Board as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Commissioner Andriola commended Lieutenant (Lt.) Shatawna Daniel for the effort to connect campers at the End of the World Camp in District 4 with proper resources. She reported that the effort would take time, but Lt. Daniel and the staff at the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) deserved recognition. She explained that a clean-up two years prior produced 360 tons of removed items with half as many campers as were currently there. She said the effort also supported the Truckee River's ecosystem. The camp was impacting the community, so she hoped solutions could be accomplished quickly.

Commissioner Andriola informed that the Support Treatment Accountability Recovery (STAR) Program was submitted to the National Association of Counties (NACo) for consideration of its achievement award. She thanked staff in the Office of the County Manager (OCM), ACM Kate Thomas, Government Affairs Liaison Cadence Matijevec, and Chief Alternative Sentencing Officer Justin Roper for their work on the application. She thought it was a great program and mentioned it had received national recognition and would be implemented statewide.

Chair Hill announced that on Thursday, the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) approved \$14.5 million for the County to rehabilitate the West Hills Behavioral Health Hospital. She reported that it would allow for the opening of almost 90 new pediatric beds. It would support people in the County's lowest income bracket to receive mental

health care and provide help and support to child victims of sex trafficking. She expressed gratitude to the Governor's office and informed that the facility was intended to open in 2026 with a different name. She thanked ACM Thomas, County Manager Eric Brown, and Ms. Matijevich for their attendance and support. She commended Ms. Matijevich for her passion which she witnessed while advocating for congressionally directed spending with Commissioner Garcia in Washington, D.C. She said the program had incredible potential and mental health care was needed in the community.

Vice Chair Herman stated she attended a meeting regarding the United States Postal Service (USPS). She was informed that USPS was supported by postage income, which was part of the reason it proposed a location change for the area's mail processing. She commended Ms. Matijevich for her expertise at the meeting. She stated there was an intent to increase packaging and said future local upgrades were discussed.

**24-0195**      **AGENDA ITEM 6** Presentation by Grant Denton, Executive Director of Karma Box Project, to give a status update of the Cares Campus Safe Camp. (All Commission Districts.).

Grant Denton, Executive Director of Karma Box Project, conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Who is Karma Box Project; Projects with Washoe County; Washoe County Cares Campus; Washoe County Cares Campus Safe Camp - History; Washoe County Cares Campus Safe Camp - Research; Washoe County Cares Campus Safe Camp - Pilot Program; Safe Camp Completion; photos (1 slide); Safe Camp; Washoe County Cares Campus Safe Camp; People We Serve; Washoe County Cares Campus Safe Camp - Services; Washoe County Cares Campus Safe Camp - Program Model; Washoe County Cares Campus Safe Camp - Outcomes (2 slides); Washoe County Cares Campus Safe Camp – Above and Beyond (4 slides).

Mr. Denton informed that the Karma Box Project (KBP) began as a grassroots community effort to place free pantry boxes throughout the community. He reviewed the outreach programs KBP was currently involved in. He explained that the River Stewards Program was an outreach program where unhoused individuals who lived along the river volunteered to help clean the river in exchange for gift cards. He noted the program was utilized as a vehicle for his team to get acquainted with unhoused individuals. It was part of the Built for Zero initiative, where they learned who was unhoused, what issues they were facing, and how solutions could be provided. He said KBP operated the emergency overflow shelter at the same time as the River Stewards Program because no other agencies were able to operate the shelter. KBP housed 52 individuals per night during that time.

Mr. Denton explained that KBP operated the Cares Campus Safe Camp, a low-barrier, housing-focused program like the Cares Campus. He said it initiated assistance with a shelter, bed, and meals and then helped participants work up to permanent housing. He noted that the Cares Campus was the only low-barrier shelter in the community. He stated there were other high-barrier shelters that many unhoused individuals could not meet the criteria to enter.

Mr. Denton pointed out that on the slide titled Washoe County Cares Campus Safe Camp - History, the photograph on the right showed his team at the Governor's Bowl Park when they first scouted the land where Safe Camp would exist. The photograph on the left was taken two months later when individuals were being moved into tents after staff training.

Mr. Denton said he and his team wanted to utilize the best model for Safe Camp, so they conducted research and visited other safe camps around the Country. They determined that a successful exit meant permanent housing. They also identified performance-based time frames. He referenced a concept called the aggregation of marginal gains, which, when applied to Safe Camp, meant participants could stay as long as they were making improvements.

Mr. Denton noted that a cultural adjustment occurred when working with the unhoused population. He specified a cultural adjustment happened when unhoused individuals moved from the streets to the camp and again when they moved from the camp to permanent housing. He mentioned that KBP conducted research to determine a good client-to-staff ratio and this helped identify quality staff training. He said KBP wanted to provide an inclusive and welcoming community that gave people ownership of their community while concurrently nudging them out. Good neighbor policies and average stays were examined, which presented challenges because there were no average people.

Mr. Denton commented that Safe Camp was utilized because it provided an alternative to a congregate shelter. Getting individuals housed was difficult, and it was important to provide a sense of safety, security, and community for people to grow. He explained that Safe Camp evolved from tents to ModPods, and behavioral incidents significantly decreased throughout that evolution.

Mr. Denton explained that the Safe Camp focused on staffing and training, safety and security, capacity, and partnership development. He noted that when people conceptualized unhoused individuals, they usually thought about people who were new to homelessness. He assured that KBP worked with those individuals who usually remedied their own homelessness in about 90 days because of their ability to navigate systems. A larger portion of the people they worked with were chronically unhoused, severely mentally ill, those with substance use disorder, seniors, and veterans, who were found throughout the other categories.

Mr. Denton noted that Safe Camp offered various services but could not mandate them because it was a low-barrier facility. He reported that there was a high volume of participation in the offered classes, which was great. His team practiced assertive engagement; they consistently communicated the value of attending classes with the camp's population. He stated that Safe Camp's intent was to create a system that modeled the system they wanted participants to succeed in. He specified that Community Development Peers (CDP) were participants who lived in the camp and were hired to clean up the camp. He said the position was a successful gateway to employment and that most people who performed that role did well in the workforce. Safe Camp's Participant

Advisory Board occurred every Friday, where the camp met to voice their opinions and grievances. The forum helped people understand why the KBP group was there and illustrated the role each party played.

Mr. Denton said 75 percent of Safe Camp participants had physical or mental disabilities. He noted that the largest participant age group was between 45 and 64. He asserted that solutions were more complex than just obtaining a job. Since Safe Camp opened, there had been 65 successful exits to permanent housing, which was a great result.

Mr. Denton said 80 percent of Safe Camp's staff had experienced living on the streets. They were well-trained and worked with people, which meant it was important to love people. He shared that staff were trained to practice self-care, but experiences at work still impacted them. Since January 2023, the staff at Safe Camp and the Cares Campus reversed 82 overdoses. He noted that staff also could potentially be a paycheck or two away from being a client. He asserted it was important to support staff and applaud them, not attack. He announced that community partners helped every year with the Christmas season. Each year, 50 participants made a Christmas list that was given to Ms. Sandi Parkhurst, who engaged the community to obtain those gifts. He said each year, Ames Construction provided a Christmas meal, the Note-Ables came out to sing holiday tunes, and Santa Claus made an appearance to deliver the presents.

Mr. Denton thanked the Board for supporting the Cares Campus, where KBP had space to help people grow their lives to the next phase, which in turn helped the community.

Commissioner Garcia inquired about Safe Camp's capacity and how many ModPods it had. Mr. Denton advised it contained 50 ModPods, and there were one or two open ModPods each week due to transitions to housing or returns to the streets. He stated it was important to note that complex change sometimes involved failing. He said some individuals needed more than one attempt to be successful, which his team had to accept.

Commissioner Garcia asked Mr. Denton if he was pleased with the ModPods' configuration. She questioned if there was space and opportunity to add ModPods in the same location or if another space in Safe Camp could be considered for expansion. Mr. Denton commended the ModPods and said Safe Camp was outperforming other safe camps. He informed that he had visited 11 different cities to see how their shelters and safe camps operated. He believed there was room to expand.

Commissioner Andriola asked if the facility had a waiting list. Mr. Denton said it did not because participants came directly from the streets. He explained that Washoe County was unique in that it had a case conference with all the outreach providers. Every two weeks, when a ModPod opened, they reviewed individuals entered into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to identify Safe Camp candidates. Commissioner Andriola clarified that she was curious if they ever encountered a situation where someone wanted help and was ready for a change, but the Safe Camp was at 100 percent capacity. Mr. Denton advised that such situations did occur. Commissioner

Andriola asked what a possible expansion might entail. Mr. Denton noted that Safe Camp would benefit from additional ModPods and that the number of ModPods was significant. Fifty ModPods was considered a best practice because it allowed staff and participants to get to know each other. If the ratio was unbalanced, then staff could not build rapport with or influence participants. He advised that 50 ModPods were economically efficient.

Commissioner Clark inquired if potential participants beyond the 50-person capacity could be shifted to the main Cares Campus. Mr. Denton said that was not the case. Commissioner Clark questioned if Safe Camp was full and someone needed help, they could go to the main Cares Campus since it allowed for flexibility in capacity. Mr. Denton affirmed.

Commissioner Clark announced he requested Mr. Denton's presentation. He had observed a news clip that featured an interview with Mr. Denton, in which Mr. Denton roughly stated that many people were hesitant to go to the Cares Campus for various reasons. Commissioner Clark said he witnessed that people were reluctant to go to the Cares Campus. He wanted to uncover the reason for this because substantial money was put towards the Cares Campus, and he wanted more people to be willing to use the facility and its resources. He asked for Mr. Denton's feelings about the reluctance and asserted that hundreds of individuals still camped in various locations around the County. Mr. Denton responded that a different reason existed for each person. He referred to the interview Commissioner Clark mentioned and clarified that he stated during the interview that the homeless service system moved at the rate of willingness. He specified that several beds opened per day so individuals could seek help when they were willing to change. He explained that various places existed to improve people's lives, but people did not always attend them. In his personal view, church was an example of this. He believed it depended on the individual and their level of adjustment. He cited himself as an example and stated that when he was homeless, he adjusted to the lifestyle and then made a change when there was a catalyst for him. He noted that catalysts were different for everyone. He asserted that it had to be more uncomfortable on the streets than in a shelter. He also spoke about supply and demand and said there currently was not a large demand due to various levels of willingness.

Commissioner Clark said that although reasons varied per person, he attempted to distill reasons for not visiting the camp into categories. He clarified that he was searching for what the County could do to alleviate people's reluctance to enter the Cares Campus. Mr. Denton assured that he understood the question and said it was related to messaging. He explained that some individuals would say they had a negative experience at the Cares Campus many years ago, but he believed the Cares Campus and Safe Camp evolved and improved every month. He stated that the County was no longer in a situational homeless era and that specific classification only applied to a small portion of the unhoused population. He said the County experienced a behavioral homelessness situation, which involved mental illness and drug addiction. Therefore, the shelter had to evolve around those issues.

Commissioner Clark assured that Mr. Denton directed Safe Camp, so he was not expected to be the spokesperson for the Cares Campus. Since Mr. Denton was at the Cares Campus more than most individuals, Commissioner Clark was interested in his insight. Commissioner Clark said he was concerned about the method of distributing new messaging. Mr. Denton advised that headlines about the Cares Campus should not focus solely on negative messaging. He noted that all experiences could not be positive and pointed out that certain individuals experienced severe mental illness. He stated that instead of acting as emergency shelters, shelters had turned into triage centers, and triaging people took time. He said messaging was the key, and he advised that responsibility had to be taken for the existence of negative and positive messaging.

Commissioner Clark summarized that one size did not fit all. He suggested that different populations of people could exist at the Cares Campus based on various needs and that perhaps not everyone should be in the same general population. He wondered if putting everyone together in the same population was detrimental to people with the ability to exit the cycle of homelessness.

Commissioner Clark noted his comments from prior meetings about people who lived in their cars. He clarified that he had suggested the County parking lot near the Reno Rodeo Association as an option for a safe parking lot. He said some individuals had jobs, cars, and insurance but were not housed, so the parking lot could be designated as a safe option for people to sleep without the worry of being arrested.

Chair Hill was very impressed with Mr. Denton's work in the region and with how he represented the County nationally. She admitted she was originally skeptical of Safe Camp's potential because she was concerned it would resemble other unsuccessful safe camps throughout the Country. She reported that he and his team had housed people as soon as possible in 2021. She commended him for the lives he changed. She thanked him and his staff and mentioned it was tough and thankless work. She stated that nothing was perfect, but she thought the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, and Washoe County had created a good compromise that supported the area's vulnerable population. She thanked Mr. Denton for being part of the solution and for his passion, and she said Washoe County was lucky to have him.

Commissioner Garcia commented that she was at the screening of the Washoe County documentary *Home: Rebuilding Hope for Washoe's Homeless*. She praised Mr. Denton's work and asked if he would recognize a group she identified from the documentary that was in the audience. Mr. Denton pointed out individuals from the CrossRoads program. He explained that CrossRoads was found throughout Nevada, and he commended Behavioral Health Program Coordinator Frankie Lemus. He said he worked with participants each Sunday at the gym. He mentioned the Grow, Refine, Integrate, and Thrive (G.R.I.T.) program, where participants were transported to the gym, practiced boxing, participated in wellness activities, and did volunteer work.

Commissioner Garcia pointed out that Safe Camp, CrossRoads, and the Cares Campus were all highlighted in the documentary. She thanked everyone who

participated and the Commission Support Staff. She asserted that messaging was critical and that oftentimes, the messaging and narrative got taken over by people with strong opinions. She said that trickled down to staff and caused burnout and anxiety. She commended Mr. Denton and his staff for their self-care. She stated supportive behavior included time spent at the dais.

**12:07 p.m.**    **The Board recessed.**

**12:17 p.m.**    **The Board reconvened with all members present.**

**PROCLAMATIONS**

**24-0196**    **8A1** Proclaim the month of April as National County Government Month. (All Commission Districts.).

Assistant County Manager (ACM) Kate Thomas recognized Parks Maintenance Worker Joseph Peroddy, the County's most tenured employee, for his 44 years of service. She also recognized one of the County's newest employees, Human Services Case Worker Guillermo Alonso, and Library Assistant III Marie Bradshaw.

Commissioner Andriola read the proclamation.

**12:20 p.m.**    **The Board recessed.**

**12:22 p.m.**    **The Board reconvened with all members present.**

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 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 8A1 be adopted.

**24-0197**    **8A2** Proclaim the week of April 14 - 20, 2024 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

Assistant County Manager (ACM) Kate Thomas stated that members of the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) executive staff, Communications Center Manager Jennifer Felter, and some of the WCSO's dispatchers were present to accept the proclamation.

Commissioner Clark read the proclamation.

Ms. Felter thanked her staff and said they did an amazing job.

**12:26 p.m.**    **The Board recessed.**

**12:28 p.m.**    **The Board reconvened with all members present.**

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 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 8A2 be adopted.

### **DONATIONS**

**24-0198**      **9A1** Recommendation to accept a donation of [\$300.00] from Fire Shows West to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office for the Citizen Corps Program (CCP), including funds to be used for food purchases & operating supplies, and, if approved, authorize Comptroller's Office to make appropriate budget amendments. Sheriff. (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 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 9A1 be accepted.

**24-0199**      **9A2** Recommendation to accept monetary donations in the amount of [\$14,129.62], recognize Girl Scouts Troop #376 and the Nevada Woodchucks who built a donation drop box for our facility that has an estimated value of [\$300.00], accept donations from the SPCA for animal food and other items with an estimated value of [\$17,979.28], and recognize numerous citizens who donated animal food and various goods with an estimated value of [\$3,239.91] (see attached donor lists) to Washoe County Regional Animal Services retroactive for the period of October 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, to be used for the humane care and treatment of sick and/or injured, stray, abandoned, or at-risk animals; express appreciation for these thoughtful contributions; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Regional Animal Services. (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 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 9A2 be accepted.

### **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – 10A1 THROUGH 10H1 EXCLUDING AGENDA ITEM 10F1 HEARD SEPARATELY**

**24-0200**      **10A1** Approval of minutes for the Board of County Commissioners' regular meeting of February 27, 2024. Clerk. (All Commission Districts.)

**24-0201**      **10B1** Recommendation to approve an Employee Residence Agreement between Washoe County and Michael Stapledon (Washoe County Sheriff's Office employee) to allow occupancy within the County owned residence

located 330A Sunset Boulevard, Gerlach, Nevada, retroactive to April 8, 2024 [no cost]. Community Services. (Commission District 5.)

- 24-0202**      **10B2** Recommendation to approve: 1) a Dragon Lights Reno Agreement between Washoe County and Tianyu Arts and Culture Inc., for a Dragon Lights Reno event to be held on September 27, 2024 through November 30, 2024 (with possible renewals for calendar years 2025 and 2026) at the Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden, located at 1595 North Sierra Street; and 2) authorize Community Services Director, Eric Crump, to execute an Invitation Letter directed to the United States Citizen and Immigration Services requesting P-3 visas for artists and entertainers. Community Services. (Commission District 3.)
- 24-0203**      **10B3** Recommendation to approve a Quitclaim Deed between Washoe County and the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA), to transfer ownership of Assessor's Parcel Number 534-091-10 located in Spanish Springs, Nevada, totaling ±16,764 square feet that contains existing municipal water facilities. The parcel was originally owned and operated by Washoe County Department of Water Resources and was identified for transfer to the TMWA as part of the approved merger of Washoe County water related infrastructure into the TMWA as approved in 2014 [no cost]. Community Services. (Commission District 4.)
- 24-0204**      **10B4** Recommendation to approve Resolution R24-14 calling a public hearing (to be set for May 14, 2024) on the amendment of the boundaries of District No. 24 (Groundwater Remediation/Central Truckee Meadows Remediation District) in Washoe County, Nevada; providing for a notice of hearing and for other matters properly related thereto. The Central Truckee Meadows Remediation District was formed in 1997 to remediate tetrachloroethene (PCE) contamination of groundwater in the central Truckee Meadows area. The District is also tasked with updating both the Service Area Boundary and Contaminant Boundary based on continuous analysis and modeling efforts. Community Services. (All Commission Districts.)
- 24-0205**      **10C1** Recommendation to acknowledge receipt of the completed audit for the Cash Control Audits for the Washoe County Clerk's Office and the Washoe County Treasurer's Office from the Internal Audit Division. Finance. (All Commission Districts.)
- 24-0206**      **10D1** Recommendation to approve Washoe County's proposed language access policy and plan for implementation with an effective date of April 16, 2024, pursuant to Assembly Bill 266 of the 82nd Session of the Nevada Legislature. Human Resources. (All Commission Districts.)

**24-0207**      **10E1**      Recommendation to approve, pursuant to NRS 244.1505, Commission District Special Fund disbursement in the amount of [\$35,000.00] for Fiscal Year 2023-2024; District 3 Commissioner Mariluz Garcia recommends a [\$35,000.00] grant to Sierra Nevada Journeys - a nonprofit organization, created for religious, charitable or educational purposes - for the purpose of supporting the STEM education of 700 children; approve Resolution necessary for same; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary disbursement of funds. Manager's Office. (Commission District 3.)

**24-0208**      **10E2**      Recommendation to approve, pursuant to NRS 244.1505, Commission District Special Fund disbursement in the amount of [\$40,000.00] for Fiscal Year 2023-2024; District 5 Commissioner Jeanne Herman recommends a [\$10,000.00] grant to Palomino Valley General Improvement District (PVGID) -- a government entity and a quasi-municipal corporation -- for the purpose of improving and maintaining the roads managed by the organization, a [\$7,500.00] grant to the Lifestyle Homes Foundation -- a nonprofit organization created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes --for the purpose of supporting food and clothing for seniors at the Cold Springs Family Center, a [\$7,500.00] grant to Washoe County Human Services Agency -- a government entity -- for the purpose of supporting the Men's Crossroads program, a [\$5,000.00] grant to the Veterans Guest House -- a nonprofit organization created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes -- for the purpose of supporting its mission of providing U.S. military service veterans and their families with caring support during times of medical need, a [\$2,500.00] grant to the Adopt-A-Vet Dental Program -- a nonprofit organization created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes -- to provide free critical and life-saving dental care to impoverished veterans in Nevada, and a [\$2,500.00] grant to the Veterans Upward Bound Program at Truckee Meadows Community College -- a nonprofit organization created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes -- for the purpose of supporting educational and career success for U.S. military veterans, approve Resolutions necessary for same; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary disbursements of funds. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

**24-0209**      **10G1**      Recommendation to accept the grant award for the 2024 Nevada State Opioid Response (SOR) III Project [amount not to exceed \$56,318.00, no County match required] administered through the University of Nevada, Reno to be used for the continued support of the Opioid Treatment Program to include non-county employee travel within the Washoe County Detention Facility, for the retroactive grant period of September 30, 2023 - August 31, 2024, and if approved, direct Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

- 24-0210**      **10G2** Recommendation to accept an equipment donation and grant award of [2] Sotoxa Oral Fluid Testing Devices valued at \$4,900 each with 25 oral fluid testing cartridges valued at \$625 for a total value of \$10,425 from the Nevada Office of Traffic Safety to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office to be utilized for driving under the influence (drugs) investigations. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)
- 24-0211**      **10G3** Recommendation to approve a reimbursement agreement [\$7,500.00 maximum total reimbursement, no match required] from the United States Department of Justice, United States Attorney, Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) for reimbursement of overtime costs incurred while involved in the investigation of OCDETF Initiative number PA-NV-0377 for the retroactive period of January 1, 2024 through January 1, 2025, and if approved, direct Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)
- 24-0212**      **10G4** Recommendation to accept the 2023 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Management funding from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) as administered through Las Vegas Metro Police Department [amount not to exceed \$83,000.00, no County match required] to be used for the continuing costs of Automatic License Plate Readers for the retroactive period of March 7, 2024 to December 31, 2024, and direct Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)
- 24-0213**      **10G5** Recommendation to accept the 2022 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Management funding from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) as administered through Las Vegas Metro Police Department [amount not to exceed \$89,670.00] no County match required] to be used for the installation of Automatic License Plate Readers retroactive period of March 7, 2024 to June 30, 2024, and direct Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)
- 24-0214**      **10G6** Recommendation to accept receipt of a grant award [\$244,619.00 no County match required] from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), FY 2023, Award Number 15PBJA-23-RR-05805-SCAA, to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Detention Bureau to be used for Detention Bureau activities and projects only. The beginning date of the grant term is retroactive to November 21, 2023 through December 31, 2024, with no expiration of expending awarded funds. If approved, direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)
- 24-0215**      **10G7** Recommendation to accept a funding increase to the Justice Assistance Grant award approved on August 15, 2023, [amount not to

exceed \$2,856.86 no County match required] as administered through the State of Nevada Department of Public Safety Office, Office of Criminal Justice Assistance, to cover the cost of training and travel associated with the training for the Special Operations Division, and for the retroactive extended grant period of February 7, 2023, through September 30, 2024, and if approved, direct Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

**24-0216**      **10G8** Recommendation to accept Nevada Division of Emergency Management grant award [amount not to exceed \$19,700.00, no County match required] as administered through the State of Nevada, Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, Federal FY 2020 project number 97067.20, to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Bomb Unit for the purchase of equipment for the Consolidated Bomb Team for the retroactive grant term of October 1, 2020 through June 30, 2024 and if approved, authorize Sheriff Balaam to execute grant award documentation, and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

**24-0217**      **10G9** Recommendation to accept Nevada Division of Emergency Management grant award [amount not to exceed \$9,246.00, no County match required] as administered through the State of Nevada, Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, Federal FY 2020 project number 97067.20, to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) for payment of equipment for the retroactive grant term of October 1, 2020 through June 30, 2024 and if approved, authorize Sheriff Balaam to execute grant award documentation, and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

**24-0218**      **10H1** Recommendation to accept Treasurer's status report for the period ending March 31, 2024, of payment of refunds and interest since last update in the amount of \$10,732.05 on certain property tax overpayments for residential properties at Incline Village/Crystal Bay, in compliance with the October 21, 2019 Order issued by the District Court in Village League to Save Incline Assets, Inc., et.al. vs. State of Nevada, et.al., Case No. CV03-06922, as modified and clarified by the settlement agreement regarding the processing of refunds. Treasurer. (All Commission Districts.)

Chair Hill asked Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Nathan Edwards if Agenda Item 10E2 had to be pulled since the donation to the Circle of Life Hospice Foundation was postponed. He said it was not necessary and advised that the omission simply be noted during the motion.

Commissioner Clark requested to pull Agenda Item 10F1 for discussion.

Commissioner Garcia made a disclosure regarding Agenda Item 10E1. She informed that the Board approved a District 3 special fund disbursement for \$10,000 on May 16, 2023, that served 513 students from 3 different schools in Sun Valley. She reminded that prior to the approval, she disclosed her service on the Sierra Nevada Journeys (SNJ) Board from 2019 to 2022. She wanted to once again make that disclosure prior to the vote.

On the call for public comment, Ms. Norma Tylock recognized a group from the Cold Springs Family Center who did a fantastic job. She commented that she loved going there and that a grant would help the center obtain items like paper goods, cleaning supplies, and toilet paper. She shared that the wonderful staff was always extremely willing to help.

Mr. Kenneth Smiley expressed gratitude for Agenda Item 10E2, specifically Vice Chair Herman's district special fund disbursement recommendation for Men's CrossRoads. He stated the funds represented a beacon of hope and support for individuals seeking a path away from substance abuse and toward recovery. He shared that Men's CrossRoads was a community built on the foundation of recovery, resilience, and reintegration. Its primary mission was to provide a supportive environment where men battling substance abuse disorders could achieve sobriety and a comprehensive, sustainable lifestyle change that addressed the root causes of addiction. He asserted that Vice Chair Herman's support was crucial in multiple facets of the organization's operation and directly impacted the lives of the individuals it served. The significance of the funding could not be overstated and it directly contributed to the program's core services, which included residential care, therapeutic interventions, educational workshops, and aftercare planning. Each component was essential for the recovery journey, and the funds would enhance their ability to meet the increasing needs of the community. He stated he was blessed to experience the Cares Campus after being unhoused. Although the Cares Campus had its naysayers, its staff was gifted and special because they could identify the individuals who were willing to change. It had an amazing staff of mental health directors who recognized his ability to change so that he did not have to stay there for a long time, as he was only there for two weeks. From there, he went to Men's CrossRoads, where he was met with an abundance of opportunities. He said the special thing about Men's CrossRoads was that it encouraged the practice of probing self-examination. At the time, he wanted a completely different mindset and to be autonomous in his self-awareness. He wanted to be better and reach the people in the community who, like him, had thought a better life was out of reach. He said being blessed with CrossRoads allowed him to ask questions and deal with his emotional trauma, grief, and anger.

Mr. Jezse Escalante-Encinas disclosed that he came from the streets. He wished to extend grace to programs like the Cares Campus, Safe Camp, and Men's CrossRoads, which he credited with helping him make better decisions, and praised their staff for helping him become a better person. He expressed appreciation for the monetary donation and stated he hoped the programs could continue working with the Board.

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 10A1 through 10H1, with the exclusion of Item 10F1, be approved. The Circle of Life Hospice was removed from Agenda Item 10E2. Any and all Resolutions pertinent to Consent Agenda Items 10A1 through 10H1, with the exclusion of Item 10F1, are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

**24-0219**      **10F1** Recommendation to approve a payment of \$752.56 per day, retroactive to July 1, 2023, to Reno Justice Court judges who preside over pretrial detention hearings on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays and to authorize Human Resources and Budget to make any corresponding changes or adjustments. [Net fiscal impact of \$88,563] Reno Justice Court. (All Commission Districts.)

Commissioner Clark stated that after examining the amount of money involved, he thought judges should receive compensatory time for the weekends and holidays they worked in lieu of overtime payments. He said they could then arrange their schedules to receive more time off. He mentioned that other departments, such as the Assessor's Office, shifted their schedules to accommodate compensatory time.

On the call for public comment, Ms. Penny Brock stated that being a judge was an elected office, and the voters had not known they would be paying overtime. She questioned if overtime would have to be paid for all elected offices. She felt that taxpayers and voters would not favor the agenda item. She agreed with Commissioner Clark's point regarding compensatory time.

Commissioner Andriola questioned the legal implications of the agenda item and wondered if it was allowed from a human resources (HR) perspective. Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Nathan Edwards stated that the HR department would be best suited to answer that question. He advised that the Board's approval or denial were both allowable actions. He said the Commissioners could consider Commissioner Clark's idea regarding compensatory time and that the agenda item could be tabled so that more information could be obtained.

Chair Hill observed that Assembly Bill (AB) 424 required the justices to work on the weekends, and therefore, the State mandated that they do more than they were elected to do. She was comfortable moving forward because it was not a large financial burden for the County and helped ensure proper justice was carried out.

Commissioner Andriola said she understood it was a statutory requirement for judges to work on weekends. She mentioned it was an unfunded mandate, and she had 20 years of experience with unfunded mandates. She wanted to get to the core of the HR policy because the County had to comply with statutory language, and she wanted to ensure nothing would conflict with HR policy. She was curious if the agenda item had been vetted by HR. Assistant County Manager (ACM) Kate Thomas reported that HR's policies did not conflict with the mandate. She informed that the courts were a separate entity with

separate HR policies and she was not sure if the courts had conferred with HR. She advised it was a policy matter for the Board to consider.

Chair Hill declared she was not comfortable directing judges to take compensatory time. Commissioner Clark stated that he understood no one could be forced to take compensatory time. He noted that many other professions required weekend work. He suggested that someone be on call during weekends. He asserted there were more cost-effective solutions. He felt the public would not support the agenda item.

Commissioner Andriola believed the agenda item was driven by statutory requirements. She stated unless there was a conflict with an HR policy, she would comply with the requirements.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Chair Hill, which motion duly carried on a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Clark voting no, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10F1 be approved and authorized.

**BLOCK VOTE – 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17 AND 18**

**24-0220** **AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommendation to: (1) award a bid and approve the Agreement to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder for the Washoe Golf Course Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Replacement Project - PWP-WA-2024-171 [staff recommends Acco Engineered Systems Inc., in the amount of \$481,450.00.00]; and (2) approve a separate project contingency fund [in the amount of \$88,550.00 for a total construction cost not to exceed \$570,000.00]. The Project is located at 2601 S. Arlington Street, Reno, Nevada and the scope of work is to replace HVAC equipment in the Washoe Golf Clubhouse that has reached the end of useful life and will be replaced with a modern and efficient HVAC system. Community Services. (Commission District 1.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Clark voting no, it was ordered that Agenda Item 11 be awarded and approved.

**24-0221** **AGENDA ITEM 12** Recommendation to: (1) award a bid and approve the Agreement to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder for the South Truckee Meadows Steamboat Lift Station and Force Main, PWP-WA-2023-493, [staff recommends K.G. Walters Construction Co., Inc., in the amount of \$14,238,250.00]; and (2) approve a separate project contingency fund [in the amount of \$711,912.00 for the total construction cost not to exceed \$14,950,162.00]. The Project is located at 1202 Trademark Drive, Reno, and the scope of work is for construction of a replacement sanitary sewer lift station, a new sanitary sewer force main, a reclaimed water line

extension, a parking area, and associated demolition of the existing lift station and ancillary work necessary to provide increased sanitary sewer conveyance capacity in response to new development within the South Truckee Meadows area of Reno, Nevada. Community Services. (Commission District 2.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Clark voting no, it was ordered that Agenda Item 12 be awarded and approved.

**24-0222**      **AGENDA ITEM 13** Recommendation to award a bid and approve the Agreement to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder for the Virginia Foothills Park Playground Improvement Project, PWP-WA-2024-108, [staff recommends Garden Shop Nursery Landscaping Division, Inc., in the amount of \$570,345.83]. The Project is located at 13401 Rim Rock Drive, Reno, Nevada, and the scope of work is to replace existing playground equipment. Community Services. (Commission District 2.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Clark voting no, it was ordered that Agenda Item 13 be awarded and approved.

**24-0223**      **AGENDA ITEM 14** Recommendation to award a bid and approve the Agreement to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder for the Golden Valley Park Playground Improvement Project, PWP-WA-2024-107 [staff recommends Garden Shop Nursery Landscaping Division, Inc., in the amount of \$600,242.42]. The Project is located at 7490 Hillview Drive, Reno, Nevada, and the scope of work is to replace existing playground equipment. Community Services. (Commission District 5.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Clark voting no, it was ordered that Agenda Item 14 be awarded and approved.

**24-0224**      **AGENDA ITEM 16** Recommendation to approve the appointment of Planning Commissioner Rob Pierce to the Regional Transportation Commission's Regional Road Impact Fee Technical Advisory Committee (RRIF TAC) to fill the vacancy left by former Planning Commissioner Larry Chesney on the RRIF TAC. Rob Pierce's term on the RRIF TAC will

run concurrently with his term on the Planning Commission. Community Services. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Clark voting no, it was ordered that Planning Commissioner Rob Pierce be appointed to the Regional Transportation Commission's Regional Road Impact Fee Technical Advisory Committee for a term that runs concurrently with his term on the Planning Commission.

**24-0225**      **AGENDA ITEM 17** Recommendation to confirm re-appointments to the Washoe County, Nevada OPEB Trust Fund Board of Trustees of 1) Cindy Vance, Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District chief fiscal officer, retroactive from July 24, 2023 for a two-year term to July 24, 2025, 2) Christine Vuletich, retiree, for a two-year term beginning June 21, 2024 ending June 21, 2026, and 3) Cathy Hill, Washoe County fiscal officer as "employee of the Employer who manages the fiscal affairs of the Employer", for a two-year term beginning June 26, 2024 ending June 26, 2026 with the eligibility of continuing for an additional two-year term ending on June 26, 2028. The OPEB Trust is a legally separate entity from Washoe County for the exclusive purpose of providing funds to pay for the post-retirement benefits provided by the employee welfare benefit plans maintained by the County and all assets of the fund are irrevocably dedicated to, and are used for the exclusive purpose of, providing for the payment of benefits and for paying reasonable expenses of administering the Fund, and will not be available to any creditors of the County or Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District. Comptroller. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Clark voting no, it was ordered that Ms. Cindy Vance be reappointed to the Nevada Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund retroactive from July 24, 2023, for a two-year term to July 24, 2025; that Ms. Christine Vuletich be reappointed to the OPEB Trust Fund for a two-year term beginning June 21, 2024, ending June 21, 2026; and that Ms. Cathy Hill be reappointed to the OPEB Trust Fund for a two-year term beginning June 26, 2024, ending June 26, 2026, with the eligibility of continuing for an additional two-year term ending on June 26, 2028.

**24-0226**      **AGENDA ITEM 18** Recommendation to approve the use of General Fund Contingency in the total amount of [\$1,200,000] for fiscal year 2024 in accordance with Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 354.598005 to 1) increase expenditure authority in Conflict Counsel in the total amount of [\$1,138,500] to support cost increases for court appointed attorneys; 2) increase expenditure authority in Public Defender's Office for Expert

Witness Fees [\$46,500] to support reasonable and necessary costs to meet minimum Due Process rights in the Tracy Petrocelli Trial; 3) increase expenditure authority in Alternate Public Defender's Office for Expert Witness Fees [\$15,000] to support reasonable and necessary costs to meet minimum Due Process rights in the Avram Nika Trial; and direct the Comptroller to make the appropriate cross-functional budget appropriation transfers. [Total fiscal year 2024 impact \$1,200,000; net fiscal impact \$-0-]. Finance. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Clark voting no, it was ordered that Agenda Item 18 be approved and directed.

**24-0227**      **AGENDA ITEM 7** Recommendation to acknowledge status report and possible direction to staff on the County Manager's recommended Fiscal Year 2025 Budget (July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025) with estimated appropriations of approximately [\$1,122,472,592] which incorporates Board priorities of funding for existing contractual obligations, supplies, utilities, personnel costs, capital improvements and operations, maintaining the County's assets and infrastructure needs, and operating budget requests, and direct the County Manager to return to the Board of County Commission with the certified Tentative and Final Budget for adoption at a public hearing to be scheduled on May 21, 2024. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.).

County Manager Eric Brown stated that the fiscal year (FY) 2025 budget reflected the strategic plan priorities established by the Board. To date, it was the most challenging budget during his tenure, primarily due to the continued flattening of consolidated tax (c-tax) revenue. He clarified that c-taxes continued to grow but at a declining rate. C-taxes reflected about one-third of the County's revenue, so the declining growth had a material impact on the County's ability to fund additional ongoing expenses. He said increased employee headcounts and additional ongoing expenses had to be postponed unless they were supported by an offsetting revenue source. He reminded that the County was in the process of collective bargaining with the Washoe County Employees Association (WCEA) and the process would have a material impact on the County's expenses. He stated that caution had to be exercised with any expense growth to avoid a situation where, over the five-year planning horizon, expense growth surpassed anticipated revenue growth. He assured that the County would continue to support its current workforce, sustain the services it provided, and ensure prudent use of reserves and one-time funding, where appropriate.

Budget Manager Lori Cooke conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Agenda; Strategic Planning Direction; FY 2024 Year-to-Date Review; Fiscal Year 2024 Year-To Date - General Fund; FY 2025 General

Fund Financial Outlook and Recommended Budget; Economic Outlook; Financial Outlook - Summary; Fiscal Year 2025 - General Fund Revenues/Sources - \$503.9 Million; Fiscal Year 2025 - General Fund Appropriations - \$522 Million; Appropriation Summary by Type and Function - \$522 Million; General Fund Expenditures – 15 New Positions (14 Net); General Fund Sources & Uses (2 slides); FY 2025 Recommended Budget – Other Funds; Other Fund Expenditures – 10.0 New Positions; Other Governmental Funds – Sources Totaling \$373.4 Million; Other Governmental Funds – Uses Totaling \$466 Million; Capital Improvement Highlights – Total \$132.9M; Proprietary Funds – Totaling \$134.4 Million; Budget Summary - \$1.12B over 29 Funds; Next Steps.

Ms. Cooke said the strategic planning direction given at the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) meeting in October 2023 provided integral planning insights for the budget process. She reminded that a presentation regarding the FY's halfway point was given at a February BCC meeting. She stated the slide titled Fiscal Year 2024 Year-To Date - General Fund presented the unaudited budget for the first nine months of FY 2024. She reported no issues with tracking and stated the County was slightly ahead of its revenue budget. She informed that there were no concerns regarding expenditures in the current FY.

Ms. Cooke remarked that the information on the slide titled Economic Outlook was very similar to the information presented to the Board in February. She explained that taxable sales were the taxable components of the County's c-tax and mentioned that c-tax included various components. She stated the County was impacted by real property transfer tax due to the housing market. She noted that staff used the Governor's certified population when they created the budget and submitted it to the State. She pointed out the federal monetary policy had impacts on residential interest rates but the region's market did not experience a large decline in asking prices.

Ms. Cooke pointed out the General Fund made up half the County's budget. The phenomenon of expenditures that grew faster than revenues was not limited to the General Fund. She noted the current FY opened with a budget deficit. She explained that the base budget process meant that everything approved the previous year was rolled forward into the future year, then adjustments were made as new information was provided. She stated that examples of those variables included collective bargaining and other contractual items. She said 46 additional staff positions were approved in the General Fund for FY 2024, which was substantial but necessary. She explained that the 0.2 percent difference between revenues and expenditures in the Five-Year Forecast seemed small, but the variance was significant when it applied to \$500 million, and it would continue to grow in the future.

Ms. Cooke remarked that the County's property tax revenue consisted of multiple components related to general and nonresidential tax caps, as well as new development.

Ms. Cooke noted that appropriations included expenditures and transfers out. Appropriations from the General Fund supported other funds and contingency. She

pointed out that new staff was needed at the facility level for the anticipated opening of the West Hills Behavioral Health Hospital, which would open under a different name. Two positions were recommended for the facility, and both were offset through reallocation and the abolishment of one vacant position. The financial burden of those positions to the Five-Year Forecast was considered normal personnel growth. She reported that staff from the Second Judicial District Court (SJDC), District Attorney's (DA) Office, Public Defender's (PD) Office, and Alternate Public Defender's (APD) Office all worked together to establish a plan to address the needs and goals related to Competency Court. She noted that the 11 recommended positions stemmed from that plan.

Ms. Cooke referenced the slide titled Appropriation Summary by Type and Function - \$522 Million and said the graph on the right side showed appropriations categorized by function. She noted that the approximate \$78 million in the Transfers Out category depicted in the graph on the left was a segment of the total \$522 million. The Other category mostly included contingency.

Ms. Cooke reviewed the new recommended positions on the slide titled General Fund Expenditures – 15 New Positions (14 Net). She clarified that the two positions related to short term rentals (STR) were the result of the the Board's direction and a fee schedule. The revenue for funding those positions was approved by the Board.

Ms. Cooke noted there was a structural deficit, but the County still had a balanced budget. Per State law, the County was not allowed to have a deficit budget. She pointed out that a large portion of the budget was related to contingency. Because of outliers, including pending collective bargaining, the contingency was near the statutory maximum. She advised that for anything that was not utilized or appropriated, the Board had to approve the use of contingency. She said stabilization was one example of a restriction of a fund balance.

Ms. Cooke said sustainability and strategic planning had to be considered when looking at other funds. She pointed out that the County's investments were aimed at personnel. There was a lot of reallocation performed by her and her team, and work done by elected officials and departments, to get the County to its current position. The County was in dire need of delivering capital projects. There were some large, high-profile funded items related to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and other funding that were expiring and required a unique timeline. The County also had other projects that had to be executed. She stated the Capital Fund was outside of the General Fund and explained that the additional desired utilities positions were offset. She noted the Utilities Fund was also outside of the General Fund. It was a proprietary fund that was funded by user fees and connection fees. She informed there were 26 additional positions in FY 2024. She explained that there would not necessarily be a Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) increase on July 1, but there was still an increase from the prior year.

Ms. Cooke stated that the other governmental funds had various sources. For example, some funds received ad valorem or property taxes. She pointed out that some of the other governmental funds had transfers out. Transfers out of the Indigent Tax Levy

supported Child Protective Services (CPS) and the Homelessness Fund. She reminded that the Homelessness Fund was not just for the Cares Campus and Safe Camp, but was also for CrossRoads and Our Place. She noted there was a one time recommendation of transfer from the Capital Facilities Tax Fund to the Roads Fund. The Roads Fund was being examined regarding sustainability. The County was not unique in that motor vehicle fuel tax was not keeping up with its desired pace. She said some of the Capital Facilities Tax went to the State's general fund. The money paid in tax per gallon of gas in Washoe County did not necessarily go to the County, and a large portion of it went to the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC).

Ms. Cooke discussed capital improvements and announced the largest new project related to the parking lot at the Washoe County Detention Facility. She said the longer the County waited to execute that project, the more expensive it would be. She noted that it was a complex situation. She recommended earmarking capital funding for capital grants. That way, if an opportunity to apply for a capital improvement grant appeared, funds were already identified for that match because a match was required in many cases. She mentioned that the 9th Street Administrative Complex data center was quite old.

Ms. Cooke said the proprietary and enterprise funds operated like businesses. The largest was the Utilities Fund, which no longer included water due to the divestiture to the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA). She stated that internal service funds included services provided to County employees.

Ms. Cooke stated the County's total budget included ongoing personnel investments, including additional positions from prior years. PERS, other post-employment benefits (OPEB), classification and compensation studies, cost of living adjustments (COLA), and other factors impacted the overall budget accumulation. She said there were an additional 25 positions for all funds, and she reminded that less than half of them contributed to a budgetary increase. Most of them were funded by offsets or permanent offsets related to either revenue or reallocation of the budget. She pointed out the Language Access Plan was legally required by Assembly Bill (AB) 266. She mentioned that Human Resources (HR) had worked hard on the plan and that it was funded through reallocation, so it had a net-zero impact.

Ms. Cooke noted that the 1 percent increase in the General Fund appropriations from the prior year was a historical pattern and a relatively flat increase. The other funds had differing reasons for their respective increases and decreases. She said the County attempted to make the best use of its resources and reallocated where possible. Work was also performed with departments to identify potential service delivery methods and other ongoing solutions.

Ms. Cooke stated that the tentative budget had been submitted to the State, which had to occur on or before April 15. She explained the State had to certify the County's tentative budget, which occurred later in the budget process and the Board still adopted the final budget. The public hearing for the tentative budget could not happen any earlier than the third Monday of May, and a final budget had to be adopted and submitted

by June 1. She said it was a narrow timeline regarding the final Board approval of the budget and submittal to the State. She noted the County's Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan, Debt Management Policy, and Statement of Indebtedness were all due for submission to the State by August 1. Those items also had to be approved by the Board. It was generally practiced that the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan submission followed the adoption of the final budget.

Chair Hill stated that the budget process required a lot of hard work by Ms. Cooke and her team, as well as County staff. She mentioned that certain departments had made compromises due to the County's need to be fiscally conservative that year. She commended Ms. Cooke and her team.

Vice Chair Herman acknowledged that Ms. Cooke and her team had worked very hard. She asked if property tax income should have increased significantly due to all the new construction in the area. Ms. Cooke advised that generally speaking, that was true, but not in all cases. She further explained that abatements were approved through the Governor's office on both property tax and sales tax in some cases if they were related to economic development. She explained that, prior to an abatement implementation in 2006, an increase in the County's assessed valuation equaled an increase in property tax. She stated the concurrent increases were generally expected, however, assessed valuation increased by about 31 percent the prior year, but that did not equate to a 31 percent increase in property tax. She clarified that an entity qualified for either the 3 percent residential tax cap or the 8 percent general tax cap. She noted that the cap resulted from a statutory formula and that property taxes decreased during the recession, so it took until FY 2019 for the County to return to the absolute value level it had in FY 2008. New development played a role in adding to the County's rolls. Some sources stated there would be ongoing limited opportunity for land development in the County, which impacted budget forecasts. New development entered the County's rolls at 100 percent of its assessed valuation, but the compilation of all caps on other properties impacted the County's total property taxes.

Vice Chair Herman reported that her property taxes had increased. She observed that c-tax accounted for 32 percent of General Fund revenues while property taxes accounted for 52 percent. She inquired if those percentages had remained consistent over the past 10 years. Ms. Cooke responded they had not and explained that extreme c-tax growth had occurred within the past few years, causing c-tax to account for a larger portion of those revenues than 32 percent. She said she had observed that c-tax usually accounted for approximately 28 percent of revenue, but due to the County's extreme growth, it had surpassed that percentage. She believed that property tax accounted for about 49 percent of revenues a few years prior due to the increased c-tax growth. Unlike total property tax, c-tax was accounted for in the General Fund. Property tax was allocated based on property tax rates, of which there was an unrestricted portion, and the additional portions went to other restricted funds.

Vice Chair Herman believed the area's growth did not benefit citizens if they had to pay more in taxes. She had been told that more growth would benefit citizens, but that did not appear to be the case. Ms. Cooke noted that certain responsibilities

accompanied the impacts associated with development. She did not know if the increase in citizens' taxable sales could be solely attributed to new developments. She explained that an unexpected increase occurred during COVID-19 (C19) and mentioned that the community's market differed from other states. For example, the Reno-Sparks Convention & Visitors Authority (RSCVA) reported their best June on record occurred in 2020, while California was shut down. She said larger organizations still had a fairly strong investment interest in the area's properties. She did not disagree with Vice Chair Herman's premise and stated that development created various impacts.

Commissioner Clark mentioned Vice Chair Herman's comment that new development did not benefit the community. He explained that new development entered the County's roll with no depreciation and that any new development other than a single-family home had an 8 percent general tax cap. He posited that an issue was created if the County spent money faster than it was accumulated. In that case, additional income would not benefit the County, just enable it to tread water for a bit longer. He said it was an area of concern because a lot of new development came to the County at full market value. He discussed that the Assessor's Office was responsible for identifying the new development and ensuring it was put onto the County's tax rolls. He stated the Assessor's Office also worked with permits and that its staff had to address permits as their schedule permitted. He urged each Commissioner to meet with County Assessor Chris Sarman so he could explain to them how valuable a few additional staff in his office would be to the County's bottom line.

On the call for public comment, Ms. Penny Brock was disappointed that the PowerPoint presentation was not included on the agenda prior to the meeting. She thought the Staff Report lacked information. She stated the prior year's budget had increased from the time of the preliminary presentation to when it was approved in May. She posited the Staff Report showed a 5 percent increase that did not reflect \$1.6 billion in the current FY, which was all very confusing to taxpayers. She spoke about funds for the indigent, homeless, and senior populations. She said that similarly to last year, the indigent population would receive about \$45 million. She said no one could explain to her the definition of the term indigent so she assumed it was the homeless population. She further stated that no information could be obtained about the indigent fund. She assumed the full amount was going to the area's homeless population, which included over 2,000 individuals. She posited that the total amount of funding given to the indigent population was inappropriate compared to the \$3 million allotted to over 100,000 individuals in the senior population. She stated the Capital Improvements Fund did not contain funding to provide senior centers in south, west, or northwest Reno. She remarked that citizens would get a property tax increase in July. She said that even though the increase was mandated by the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS), the Board did not have to execute it. She mentioned that citizens in the City of Houston, Texas voted to determine if taxes should increase.

Ms. Valerie Fiannaca believed that ARPA and C19 funding had made the County complacent. She had warned of the response when the funding ended, which she thought was approaching. She asserted that the amount of funding provided for the homeless population was much more than for the senior population. She said that seniors

would soon be part of the homeless population and could, therefore, be assisted with those funds. She did not understand why public safety accounted for 28.8 percent of the budget and welfare accounted for 21.5 percent of the budget because she thought public safety should far outweigh welfare. She questioned if undocumented immigrants were included in the welfare and homeless funds. She informed that she tried to obtain that information from Washoe 311, and they advised her to contact the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). She stated that welfare should include healthcare for those who could not afford it, and she inquired if funding in the welfare fund covered healthcare for seniors or the homeless population. She added that more details on the budget should be available sooner. She felt that there could be potential overlap in the welfare fund, and there was no way for citizens to discern which populations were included within a certain budget.

Ms. Pam Darr told a story about a fundraiser dinner she attended the prior week. At the dinner, she met an individual who worked in social services and was retiring soon. This individual told her that their entire client base consisted of refugees, which shocked Ms. Darr. She said that was not affordable because the County was going broke. Ms. Darr asserted that hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants entered the Country each month from approximately 190 other countries. She remarked that citizens had to know how many people from other countries were being assisted with the County's resources. She mentioned that the Board might not be able to provide an answer if those resources were interconnected with federal funds. She suggested that the Board send letters to the federal government and then report back to citizens so they knew what to prepare for. She commented that items were becoming more expensive, and she was concerned about her family's long-term well-being. She stated her grandparents were required to have sponsors when they immigrated from Ireland. She declared that the County could not provide all its services for free without going broke.

Commissioner Garcia said it was the first year she witnessed the budget process include the factor of collective bargaining. She mentioned that the agenda packet referred to collective bargaining as having an unknown impact. She asked for clarification regarding how the current FY differed from the previous FY. Ms. Cooke stated that when there were multiyear or previously signed agreements, the budget could account for those forecasts moving forward. For example, they knew there would be a 3.5 percent COLA the previous July. If there were unknown factors, such as collective bargaining agreements, the budget could not account for those impacts. In that case, she and her team had to work closely with HR to ensure their actions abided by collective bargaining, good faith bargaining, and all other statutory requirements. She acknowledged that they could provide certain estimates. For example, a 1 percent Countywide salary increase was \$3.9 million, \$2.7 million of which would come from the General Fund since not all personnel were funded by the General Fund. She provided an additional example and stated a combined 1 percent increase in property tax and a 1 percent increase in c-tax would fund a 1.5 percent salary increase. She said they had to approach the budget with the understanding that they could not fully predict those unknown factors, including what the Board would approve. Unknown factors made the process more challenging, but there were ways to quantify and effectively communicate that to the Board.

Commissioner Andriola discussed the statutory deadlines for the tentative and final budgets. She asked if there was a public workshop or similar opportunity available to help the public understand the budget details. Ms. Cooke responded that she was not aware of public workshops, however, citizen surveys and other efforts had been conducted in the past. She informed that prior to the recession, special meetings occurred each Monday starting in February so departments could discuss their needs and programs. She believed that public comment occurred at those meetings as part of the Open Meeting Law (OML). She noted that there had historically been public hearings. Commissioner Andriola clarified that those public hearings were BCC meetings. Ms. Cooke affirmed and said although a special meeting could be set, they attempted to schedule the public hearings during regular meetings so they could ensure a quorum would be established.

Commissioner Andriola mentioned that various funds were composed of a compilation of components and stated that the compilation was most likely necessary to avoid a document that was thousands of pages long. She speculated that the fund components could be expanded to provide clarity. She asked if it was possible to post the fund components online so that individuals could more thoroughly understand what populations and services were covered by various funds. Ms. Cooke was not sure if that information could be added as an addendum to the agenda, but she was sure there was a way to provide it. She clarified that the County's welfare function included CPS, which she believed accounted for the largest portion of that designated funding. She noted that the Indigent Fund included items like nursing home matching and other large programs. Senior services and homelessness were also considered welfare functions.

Commissioner Andriola thought it would be helpful to provide transparency in each category of funding so the components could be identified. She noted that she worked with financials, and she understood that a condensed format was useful for readability because those who worked with the information were familiar with the various components. She felt that providing the breakdown of each category would be helpful for full transparency, and she wondered if that information could be readily available for public review. Ms. Cooke advised that it was possible, and the information breakdown was performed manually. She said the categories were organized into the State-required format. She and her team were working on their budget system to enable a more flexible way to view the categories since reports could not currently be produced in a streamlined manner. They had received feedback that including information from each of the thousands of general ledgers (GL) would be too much information. She stated the majority of the County's expenditures were for personnel. Chair Hill inquired about the breakdown of categories provided in the Annual Financial Report (AFR). Ms. Cooke explained that the AFR provided a combined overview and was also separated by funds or departments. It also provided the County's functions and the associated departments. A document they referred to as the State Doc provided the same information and was in the same format. She noted that the welfare function contained multiple funds. She believed the breakdown would be valuable, and they would need time to accomplish it.

Commissioner Andriola discussed Ms. Cooke's previous comment regarding more streamlined reporting. She asked if a plan had been established and

inquired if it involved a new technology platform. Ms. Cooke affirmed and said the item was reviewed by the Board the previous year. The new budgeting software was called Anaplan, and they were working with the implementation consultant TruEd Consulting, Inc. They were also working on the Budget Book, which she thought was a useful and thorough document. She explained the Budget Book included rolled-up categories but did not necessarily roll them up by function. They were working to enable that within the software so the information could be exported and readily available. Commissioner Andriola confirmed the information could then be made publicly available. Ms. Cooke noted that there was a space limitation, so a report could not be exported at the GL level, but it could be exported by category. Commissioner Andriola inquired about the implementation timeframe. Ms. Cooke reported they were in the second phase, which involved the Budget Book pages, until approximately the end of the month. They would then work on reporting, although the two phases were being worked on together. She reported that data validation had to be performed. A member of her staff had worked with Microsoft Power BI, which seemed to yield successful results. Commissioner Andriola confirmed the implementation would not occur during the current budget cycle. Ms. Cooke affirmed and said a manual report could be provided in the meantime if necessary.

Manager Brown announced that he consistently recommended the County's prior-year Budget Book to community members who sought to comprehend the County's budget more thoroughly. The Budget Book contained a lot of detail and explained how strategic plan initiatives were funded. He said it was a useful document to help a layperson understand how the County spent its resources. Chair Hill mentioned that she had the Budget Book in mind when she spoke about the AFR. Ms. Cooke declared that the AFR and Budget Book were complimentary. Chair Hill confirmed the Budget Book could be found online. Ms. Cooke noted that historical Budget Books could also be found online and they contained information about other years, audited budgets, actual budgets, and adopted budgets.

Ms. Cooke confirmed the prior FY's adopted budget was \$1.06 billion. She spoke about the adjusted budget and mentioned that carried forward items were handled during an audit or when the Board reviewed the AFR. Many funds, including the Senior Services Fund and the Northern Nevada Public Health (NNPH) Fund, received funding that was not originally budgeted for. The budget was amended and increased if a federal or State award was received. She thought it was beneficial that the Budget Book displayed the adjusted plan and estimates. The budget was a living document and could morph throughout the year for a variety of reasons. She explained that a comparison between two adopted budgets was valuable because the criteria was consistent.

Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Nathan Edwards asked where the public could find the Budget Book on the County's website. Ms. Cooke advised it could be found in the Budget Division category on the Finance Department's webpage.

Commissioner Clark observed that the County was engaged in contract negotiations with the WCEA while it prepared the budget. He remarked on his previous comments that the County should engage in those activities at different times of the year

to enable more accurate budget forecasting. He questioned the logic of the items occurring simultaneously and suggested that the Commissioners work with HR to time the contracts differently. He discussed that the budget was mandated by the State. He was unsure if there was a State directive regarding the timing of WCEA negotiations.

Commissioner Clark met with a department head prior to the BCC meeting. At that time, the department head received a County email providing the budget information. He declared that less than one hour was not enough time for the Board to vote on something that had been so recently received by the department head. He mentioned Commissioner Andriola's previous point that the public needed more thorough information on the budget and stated the public did not get adequate time to review it. He explained that before he was a Commissioner, department heads presented their budgetary needs to the Board to facilitate mutual understanding. He remarked that several BCC meetings were canceled, which could have been used to discuss the budget. He thought there was a rush to vote on the budget before adequate time was given to examine it. He specified the budget dealt with taxpayers' money, not the County's money. He believed that taxpayers' input should be incorporated.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 3-2 vote with Vice Chair Herman and Commissioner Clark voting no, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7 be acknowledged and directed.

**1:46 p.m.**      **The Board recessed.**

**2:40 p.m.**      **The Board reconvened with Assistant District Attorney Nathan Edwards absent.**

**2:41 p.m.**      **Assistant District Attorney Nathan Edwards returned to the meeting.**

**24-0228**      **AGENDA ITEM 15** Recommendation to acknowledge receipt of the Washoe County Administration Complex Masterplan Update prepared by Collaborative Design Studio: (1) as professional recommendations for the long-term needs of Washoe County administrative facilities; and (2) provide direction to staff to explore financing and implementation strategies for the future needs identified within the Master Plan. Community Services. (All Commission Districts.)

Assistant County Manager (ACM) David Solaro conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: 2024 Facility Master Plan Update; In 2019 we updated the Facilities Master plan with 4 goals; photo (1 slide); Where we work matters (5 slides).

ACM Solaro announced that the Facility Master Plan supported the Innovative Services objective of the Washoe County Strategic Plan. In August 2023, facility master planning was identified as a way for the County to dynamically understand its organizational needs and better provide services to citizens.

ACM Solaro said the Facility Master Plan had to be updated as a result of COVID-19 (C19), and six additional goals were added. The County worked with its departments and consultant to understand how much space was necessary. He asserted that employees who did not work at the County on a consistent basis, such as hybrid workers, did not need a full-time workstation within the facility. This was accounted for when determining what was best for the County's citizens. He stated that space was expensive, whether it was owned or leased. He shared that an emerging idea was to establish a primary location for meeting customers at the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Administrative Complex. This would allow for freedom to utilize space behind the scenes in various ways. He mentioned that technology was used to meet with customers. He said that approximately 30 percent of foot traffic consisted of people asking for directions, so providing focus points would be helpful.

ACM Solaro commented that it was important to have a space for employee training and a space employees could call their own. The area that emerged for those purposes was Building C, which contained a large area where contract tracing was performed. As that grant period concluded, the purpose for that space was being reenvisioned.

ACM Solaro announced that a need for 30,000 square feet was projected in the 2019 Facility Master Plan, and the current update projected approximately 10,000 square feet. He credited that improvement to intelligent space utilization, which included reduced utilized space and the implementation of hybrid work. He noted there was currently one space for each employee who worked in the complex, which was unnecessary because new ways to do business existed. He stated that workspaces could be shared, an approach that was utilized in the private sector for years and would save taxpayers money. He said the County did its best to reuse furniture, but due to potential large renovations, utilizing uniform furniture helped save money in the long run.

ACM Solaro stated that the renovated Edison Way complex would showcase the Future of Work concepts so that other departments could see and understand the meaning of terms like hoteling workspace, shared conference space, and shared offices. He said creating an employee-centric workspace in Building C of the 9th Street Administrative Complex would allow employees to collaborate and would include training space. Break spaces would be consolidated into the large lounge in Building C to free up space for other uses. Staff would continue to discern if a single point of entry in Buildings A, B, and D was ideal. Since customers had to cross the complex to get to different buildings, more research would be conducted to identify the potential community benefits of that change. He reported that at the Board's direction in October 2024, the Downtown Courts Master Plan was identified for an update.

ACM Solaro stated capital funding was available in the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Fund to accomplish some adjustments at the 9th Street Administrative Complex. He explained that Northern Nevada Public Health (NNPH) had a lot of need in Building B and additional planning had to be performed as it expanded into areas of Building C.

ACM Solaro noted that there was intent to encourage departments to review the accomplishments at the Edison Way complex so they could become familiar with the concepts, as they had a huge impact on Washoe County and its funding availability. He mentioned how costly items like power and gas were for the County. They were looking to bring other departments into the 9th Street Administrative Complex and initial discussions had occurred with the Public Guardian's Office. He said that the office was in County-owned space, but if it moved to the 9th Street location, the old space could be sold as a future surplus.

Commissioner Andriola thanked ACM Solaro and observed that, as presented, the process had a ten-year timeframe. ACM Solaro pointed out that when he started at the County in 2003, there was an excellent ten-year plan, but the economic downturn necessitated an update. He stated that C19 did the same thing and they hoped to keep to the plan. Commissioner Andriola said that efficiencies like shared space and sustainability best practices would help keep costs down. She appreciated that many factors were considered. ACM Solaro advised that the impact of the Facility Master Plan update to the Strategic Plan was not isolated. He mentioned the Strategic Plan's sustainability goals and asserted that everything was interconnected. Many factors were considered so the County's decisions would meet multiple goals.

Commissioner Clark questioned the extent to which department heads and staff at the 9th Street Administrative Complex were involved in a needs assessment. He asked if managers provided concurring feedback. ACM Solaro said the County's consultant and project manager met with each department head and their key staff to understand needs and space projections within the facility. He felt they did a good job of understanding each department's needs, and those spacing needs were incorporated into the Facility Master Plan update. He explained that when departments voiced a need for additional space, there was a deep examination of how its space could be reconfigured. He noted that general reconfiguration ideas were included in the report. Commissioner Clark asked if the interviews were available for the Board to review. ACM Solaro affirmed.

Chair Hill felt grateful for the people who had a vision for the complex in the 1970s and 1980s and their thoughtful approach. She noted that the Registrar of Voters (ROV) Office needed more space, albeit seasonally. She said more space was needed every two years for mail ballots and asked if that was considered during the review process. ACM Solaro confirmed. He explained that they felt the best approach for citizens was to move the ROV to a different location, which was identified when examining the possibility of a single customer entrance point at the complex. He noted that the County paid for two leased spaces where the machines and other election items were kept. They believed that a solution was to have a separate location for the ROV. He mentioned that a separate master plan existed for the ROV to help understand its needs more precisely. Once the current election period concluded, that plan would become a project of focus and would help enable success in other areas of the Facility Master Plan.

Chair Hill inquired if the Edison Way complex appeared in the CIP Fund. ACM Solaro stated that the State Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) funds authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) were used for the Edison Way complex project.

Chair Hill reported that nonprofit organizations and other government agencies sporadically reached out to her regarding vacant space. She observed an intent to use the County's vacant space for various staffing needs. She asked if the County planned to accept tenants in the future. ACM Solaro advised that the topic had been examined at various times throughout previous years. He explained that the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) contained certain parameters regarding how the County leased property. He advised the topic could be revisited as changes at the 9th Street Administrative Complex unfolded. He noted that much of the vacant space was found in the employee-centric area of Building C, so they had identified uses for that space that did not involve much customer connection. He reminded that the Board had given direction to help nonprofit organizations, which in turn helped the County, so he noted that the concept could be incorporated into the planning process.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Andriola, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 15 be acknowledged and directed.

**24-0229**      **AGENDA ITEM 19** Recommendation to introduce and conduct the first reading of an ordinance amending Ordinance 1535, Washoe County's Requirements and Schedule of Rates and Charges for Provision of Reclaimed Water Service, to remove rates and charges for reclaimed water irrigation service, charges for bulk reclaimed water service (subdivision construction), water rights fee, connection privilege fee for new connections, and associated deposits, and other matters properly relating thereto; and if approved, set a Public Hearing for the second reading and possible adoption to be held May 14, 2024. The rates and charges for reclaimed water irrigation service will be removed, currently as \$1.16 per 1000 gallons used each month in Zone 1 and \$1.74 per 1000 gallons used each month in Zone 2, including removal of the monthly base rate. The charge for bulk reclaimed water service will be removed, currently \$2.00 per 1000 gallons used monthly with a minimum charge of \$50 per month per temporary connection, and the removal of the water rights fee, currently \$3,500.00 for each acre-foot of demand, and removal of the connection privilege fee for new connections, currently \$2,500 in Zone 1 and \$4,135 in Zone 2, per acre-foot of estimated annual water demand, as recommended at the November 14, 2023 Washoe County Commission meeting and supported by the 2023 Utility User Rate and Connection Fee Study, thereby encouraging the continued and increasing use of reclaim water for irrigation, construction and other allowed purposes and reducing regional dependency on potable water that is currently sourced from the Truckee

River and Nevada groundwater sources. Community Services. (Commission District 2.)

County Clerk Jan Galassini read the title for Bill No. 1908.

Chair Hill asked if the Board desired a staff presentation on this agenda item and it was determined that no presentation was needed.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

Bill No. 1908 was introduced by Commissioner Andriola, and legal notice for final action of adoption was directed.

**24-0230**      **AGENDA ITEM 20** Introduce and conduct a first reading of an ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 110 (Development Code) in Article 216 Spanish Springs Area, to add the Village Green Community Area Modifiers, to include provisions related to: applicability, exceptions, setbacks, building height, truck delivery areas, utilities, architecture, lighting, exterior sign lighting, parking lot lighting, landscaping, Calle de la Plata and Pyramid Way streetscapes, buffer yards, transportation improvements, and public trail easements; and all matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto. If supported, set the public hearing for second reading and possible adoption of the Ordinance for May 14, 2024. Community Services. (Commission District 4.)

County Clerk Jan Galassini read the title for Bill No. 1909.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

Chair Hill asked if the Board desired a staff presentation on this agenda item and it was determined that no presentation was needed.

Bill No. 1909 was introduced by Commissioner Andriola, and legal notice for final action of adoption was directed.

**24-0231**      **AGENDA ITEM 21** Initiation of a proposed ordinance to amend Washoe County Code Chapter 65 (Safety and Disaster Services) by repealing the definition of “division”; by repealing sections related to the county risk manager and transferring the former risk manager’s duties to the risk management division of the comptroller department; by amending provisions to: expand the risk management division’s authority to settle claims related to damage and repair of county property (with no related third party claims) from \$1,000 to \$2,500; expand the risk management division’s authority to settle any claim or suit for damages from amounts

less than \$10,000 to amounts up to \$25,000; expand the county manager's authority to settle any claim or suit for damages from amounts between \$10,000 but less than \$25,000 to amounts greater than \$25,000 but no more than \$150,000; expand the board of county commissioner's sole authority to settle any claim or suit for damages from \$25,000 or greater to \$150,000 or greater; and by revising provisions related to: the county's safety program; the county safety officer; posting of safety notices; reporting requirements for occupationally related injury or illness; reporting requirements in the event of a fatality or catastrophic event; reporting requirements by officers, employees, volunteers and department heads following an accident, incident or injury; written documentation of accidents and incidents; investigation and evaluation of accidents and incidents involving county officers, employees or volunteers and the safety committee's review of such investigations; and by amending provisions related to the safety committee's powers and duties, membership, terms of office, and meeting schedule; and all matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto. If supported, direct the Clerk to set the first reading for April 23, 2024 and public hearing, second reading and possible adoption of the Ordinance for May 14, 2024. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

Chair Hill asked if the Board desired a staff presentation on this agenda item and it was determined that no presentation was needed.

On the call for public comment, Ms. Penny Brock thought the item was confusing from a taxpayer's perspective. She believed that a transfer of power to the County Manager was a red flag, and she thought more power was being given to that role. She said she objected to the agenda item unless she could be provided with an adequate explanation. She asked the Board to consider tabling the item until more information could be provided to the taxpayers.

Commissioner Clark said he wanted to be informed of the catalyst for the proposed changes in the agenda item.

County Security Administrator Benjamin West announced he was the Chair of the County Safety Committee. He explained that the agenda item proposed shifting the duties of the County Risk Manager to the Risk Management Division within the Comptroller's Office because the position no longer existed. He noted that the other proposed changes included updates regarding economic changes that would allow the Risk Management Division and the Comptroller to settle claims at a higher rate than in the past.

Commissioner Clark clarified that there was no County Risk Manager and asked if there were plans to hire another one in the future. Mr. West responded that risk management was now handled by the Risk Management Division, and the County employed Risk Management Analysts within that division. He specified that the Comptroller ultimately served as the County's Risk Manager.

Commissioner Clark observed that because there was no longer a County Risk Manager position, the County was altering how that area operated. He asked why the duties got shifted to the Office of the County Manager (OCM) instead of to a different position. Mr. West clarified that risk management duties and any claims made against the County would be handled by the Risk Management Division within the Comptroller's Office.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Clark voting no, it was ordered that Agenda Item 21 be initiated and directed a first reading be set.

**24-0232**      **AGENDA ITEM 22** Second reading and possible adoption of an ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 2 by adopting Supplement 18 to the Washoe County Code and all clerical and technical corrections made therein. If passed, Supplement 18 will codify ordinances 1627 (Building Code); 1674 (Adoption of Supplement 15); 1694 (Affordable Housing Trust Fund); 1695 (Personnel Code); 1697 (Building Program); 1698 (Traffic); 1699 (Adoption of Supplement 16); 1701 (Adoption of Supplement 17); 1702 (Sideshows & Street Racing); 1707 (Registration of Lobbyists); and 1708 (Variance Permits). This supplement does not include amendments to the Washoe County Development Code (Chapter 110), which is published separately from the general Washoe County Code. District Attorney. (All Commission Districts.)

Chair Hill opened the public hearing.

County Clerk Jan Galassini, read the title for Ordinance No. 1716, Bill No. 1907.

Vice Chair Herman requested an explanation as to why multiple ordinances were compiled into one bill.

Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Nathan Edwards advised that all the ordinances found in the agenda item had been previously passed and were law in the County. He explained that the agenda item was a periodic batch adoption of the ordinances so that Municode, the company that put them into the Washoe County Code (WCC), was directed to put the ordinances online. People could then view the ordinances when they researched the WCC. He noted that the ordinances would otherwise sit in a stack at the Clerk's Office, making it harder for the public to view them.

Chair Hill asked ADA Edwards if the action was dictated by State law, to which he affirmed. He noted that the adoption of ordinances and codes was not the same thing. He compared the process to the Statutes of Nevada being codified as the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS), and he clarified the Statutes of Nevada and NRS were different. He explained that when the Legislature completed its statutes, the Legislative Counsel

Bureau (LCB) grouped them and placed them into the bound volumes of the NRS. He stated that the current agenda item was the virtual equivalent of that process.

There was no public comment on this item.

On motion by Commissioner Andriola, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Ordinance No. 1716, Bill No. 1907, be adopted, approved, and published in accordance with NRS 244.100.

**24-0233**      **AGENDA ITEM 23** Master Plan Amendment Case Number WMPA23-0003, Regulatory Zone Amendment Case Number WRZA23-0003 & Development Code Amendment Case Number WDCA23-0003 (Sutcliffe Community Area Modifiers). Consideration of the Planning Commission's recommendation to: (1) Adopt amendments to the Truckee Canyon Area Plan, a component of the Washoe County Master Plan, to change the Master Plan land use designation for five parcels (APNs: 079-230-01, 03, 04, 07 & 11) from Rural (R) to Commercial (C) and assign a Master Plan land use designation of Commercial (C) to two parcels without a current Master Plan land use designation (APNs: 079-230-02 & 06); and if approved, authorize the Chair to sign a resolution to that effect; (2) Adopt, subject to final approval of the associated Master Plan Amendment and a finding of conformance with the Truckee Meadows Regional Plan, an amendment to the Truckee Canyon Regulatory Zone Map, to change the regulatory zone for two parcels (APNs: 079-230-01 & 03) from General Rural (GR) to Neighborhood Commercial (NC); for three parcels (APNs: 079-230-04, 07 & 11) from Specific Plan (SP) to Neighborhood Commercial (NC); and to assign a regulatory zone of Neighborhood Commercial (NC) to two parcels without any regulatory zone designation (APNs: 079-230-02 & 06); and if approved, authorize the Chair to sign a resolution to that effect; (3) Introduce and conduct a first reading of an ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 110 (Development Code), Article 222 Truckee Canyon Area, to add a new section for the Sutcliffe Community Area Modifiers which: designates parcels subject to the modifier, specifies exceptions to the development standards for the neighborhood commercial regulatory zone for the Sutcliffe Community Area, provides for additional residential uses which shall be allowed by right in the Sutcliffe Community Area, and provides for additional commercial uses which shall be allowed with a special use permit in the Sutcliffe Community Area; and all matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto. If supported, set the public hearing for second reading and possible adoption of the Ordinance for May 14, 2024; AND (4) Sunset the Crosby Lodge Specific Plan that includes three parcels (APNs: 079-230-04, 07 & 11) The applicant is the Washoe County Community Services Department, Planning & Building division. The subject parcels are located off Sutcliffe Drive and SR 445 close to Pyramid Lake. The Board of County Commissioners may adopt the proposed amendments, may modify the proposed master plan amendments

and refer the matter back to the Planning Commission for its report in accordance with NRS 278.220(4), or may deny the proposed amendments after the public hearing. Community Services. (Commission District 5.)

Chair Hill opened the public hearing.

County Clerk Jan Galassini advised that if the first two subsections of the agenda item were approved, an introduction and first reading would follow.

Chair Hill asked if the Board desired a staff presentation on this agenda item and it was determined that no presentation was needed.

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 5-0 vote, it was ordered that subsections 1 and 2 of Agenda Item 23 be adopted, approved, and authorized.

County Clerk Jan Galassini read the title for Bill No. 1910.

Bill No. 1910 was introduced by Commissioner Andriola, and legal notice for final action of adoption was directed.

Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Nathan Edwards pointed out that subsection 4 was not included in the previous motions.

On motion by Commissioner Andriola, seconded by Vice Chair Herman, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that subsection 4 of Agenda Item 23 be adopted. Any and all Resolutions pertinent to Agenda Item 23 are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

**24-0234**      **AGENDA ITEM 24** Master Plan Amendment Case Number WMPA23-0005, Regulatory Zone Amendment Case Number WRZA23-0007. Consideration of the Planning Commission's recommendation to: (1) Adopt an amendment to the Washoe County Master Plan, South Valleys Master Plan Land Use Map, Appendix B - Maps to change the Master Plan designation from Rural to Rural Residential on one parcel totaling 17.65 acres (APN 046-042-06); and if approved, authorize the Chair to sign a resolution to that effect; and, (2) Adopt, subject to final approval of the associated Master Plan Amendment by the Board of County Commissioners and a finding of conformance with the Truckee Meadows Regional Plan by regional planning authorities, an amendment to the South Valleys Regulatory Zone Map to change the regulatory zone from General Rural (GR) (1 du/40 acres) to Medium Density Rural (MDR) (1 du/5 acres) on the same 17.65-acre parcel (APN 046-042-06); and if approved, authorize the Chair to sign a resolution to that effect. The site is located west of Interstate

580 and east of Old Highway 395. Access to the parcel is taken from Makayla Way. The Board of County Commissioners may adopt the proposed amendments, may modify the proposed master plan amendment and refer the matter back to the Planning Commission for its report in accordance with NRS 278.220(4), or may deny the proposed amendments after the public hearing. Community Services. (Commission District 2.)

Chair Hill opened the public hearing.

Chair Hill asked if the Board desired a staff presentation on this agenda item and it was determined that no presentation was needed.

On the call for public comment, Ms. Amanda Gunn said she was the neighbor to Mr. Art O'Connor's property, the property in question. She observed that Washoe Valley contained a lot of water. She stated that Mr. O'Connor's property was currently underwater and that her property bordered his property. She thought the biggest problem with the proposed amendments was that his property only had one access point that was unsuitable for use by multiple properties. She spoke about a map that specifically stated the access was intended for three properties total, which were hers, another neighbor's, and Mr. O'Connor's property containing one unit. She indicated that the access would be overtaxed if Mr. O'Connor's single unit turned into multiple units, in combination with her and the additional neighbor's units. She explained that her horses' heads hung over the access in the easement and she said the access was the only way to get to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) easement. She stated that the use of the access to try and get to Mr. O'Connor's property would put a strain on the neighbors and was not safe, especially when consideration was given to small children who rode horses on her property. She felt it was not necessary for Mr. O'Connor's property to be split into three properties in order for him to build his dream home. She supported the effort to keep Washoe Valley beautiful but did not want that effort to create safety issues or other problems in the established area.

Mr. Art O'Connor announced that he was the developer and asked if he could speak for ten minutes. Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Nathan Edwards said that was generally not the case at Board of County Commissioners' (BCC) meetings. Chair Hill advised that ten minutes of speaking time was allotted for an appeal and that he would be given three minutes to speak in this scenario. Mr. O'Connor questioned why he could speak for ten minutes at the Washoe County Planning Commission meeting and not at the BCC meeting. Senior Planner Courtney Weiche stated that a staff member of the Office of the County Manager (OCM) reported in an email that Mr. O'Connor's speaking time would be at the discretion of Chair Hill. Chair Hill advised that Mr. O'Connor could speak for ten minutes.

Mr. O'Connor conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk, and reviewed slides with the following titles: Non-conforming parcel; Town of Ophir; History of Ophir; Ophir; Ophir West; Ophir East; Mr. Douglas' House; SERPA Creates My Lot; SERPA BLA Sizes My Lot; Proposed Site Plan;

ROS 4180 – No Easement; ROS 4217 – Easement created; Last Map; Easement Modification; Notes on Easement; Easement Deed Page 1; Easement Deed Page 2; Easement Deed Page 3; Proposed Solution; Parcel 1 Access; Underground Water; Well Log; My Last Home.

Mr. O'Connor announced he was 77 years old and intended to build his last home. He was trying to recover his parcel's correct zoning. He said his property was a nonconforming parcel in an area otherwise requiring 40 acres, and there were only 17.65 acres in his parcel. He noted there was a monument on his property's road for the town of Ophir. He stated the map for Ophir was recorded six months before Nevada became a state. After Nevada became a state, there was a deed for Mr. Douglas, as noted on the slide titled History of Ophir. He pointed out his property had almost six lots on it from the town of Ophir. He said his property was formerly owned by Mr. John Casey and was purchased by Mr. John Serpa after Mr. Casey's death. Mr. Serpa created Mr. O'Connor's lot, performed a boundary line adjustment (BLA), and sized the current lot. He indicated that Washoe County signed off on the map Mr. Serpa made. Therefore, it must have conformed to the zoning regulations at that time. He remarked that the slide titled ROS 4180 did not display an easement. He stated an easement was later created to go through the center of his lot before Ms. Gunn's and Mr. Jason Strull's properties were created. He pointed out a map that he filed and said he was a registered land surveyor and a registered civil engineer. He commented that an easement ran through two lots. The easement deed indicated the easement was only an access easement, which he changed to an access and public utility easement when he filed the parcel map. He said he proposed six additional solutions besides using the existing easement and that all his proposals were rejected. He believed his neighbors did not want him to use the easement and they wanted his property to be a single 17.65 lot that had only one house on it, even though the records he referenced stated it could contain two lots. He informed that to access the north lot, he would either purchase property from the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) or obtain an encroachment permit, which would be settled with a parcel map. He mentioned there was feedback at the previous Planning Commission meeting regarding the dewatering of water wells from residents on the west side of US-395. He said he completed his master's work in hydrology and asserted the claims were invalid. He pointed out that it was 1,000 feet to those residents from his well. He asserted his well was downstream from theirs and could not dewater their wells. He discussed a well log from Ms. Gunn's well. He said that after three hours of continuous pumping, the drawdown was only 39 feet, which was the cone of depression. He assured that residents on the west side of US-395 would be unaffected by his development.

Mr. Jason Strull stated he and his wife lived on Makayla Way. He strongly opposed the amendments. He and his wife wanted to enjoy their dream property with their multiple animals. He said Mr. O'Connor's property served as a cow pasture until Mr. O'Connor purchased it in the fall of 2022. He declared the proposed amendments were not required for Mr. O'Connor and his family to build their home and enjoy their property. To his understanding, no building permits had been submitted, nor had any significant work been done to the property. He stated the intent was development. He remarked that if the amendments were approved and zoning was changed, Mr. O'Connor would be able to

parcel out his property. His opposition to the proposed amendments centered around the fact that the access to Mr. O'Connor's property relied on an easement through his and his wife's property. He posited that the proposed amendments and lot subdivision were not the original intent of the area's master plan and that the proposed amendments would place an undue burden on the surrounding property owners. He said the access point lay directly through his property, and it was a 25-foot piece of pasture. He could take his horses up the easement, which suited them perfectly. He noted that he and his wife had the same concerns as Ms. Gunn regarding traffic and safety impacts. When he originally purchased his property, Mr. O'Connor's property only contained cows. He did not intend to prohibit Mr. O'Connor from accessing or enjoying his own property, but he did not want Mr. O'Connor's property to be subdivided. He discussed a 400-acre BLM parcel that bordered the Franktown Meadows Equestrian Facility that he visited every day with his animals using the easement. He said he was at the Board's mercy and thanked the Board for its time.

Chair Hill asked Ms. Weiche to explain the decision facing the Board. She clarified that traffic was not a component of the discussion. Ms. Weiche confirmed that traffic was not being discussed. She stated that if approved, the proposed master zone amendment and regulatory zone amendment would allow for the possibility of the division of the 17-acre parcel into a maximum of 3 separate parcels through a future parcel map application and review process. She specified that items such as access and appropriate water rights would be addressed through that review process. She informed that the application was sent to the State's water resources department and the County's water expert, and no concerns were raised. She said the property was not identified as being in a flood zone, though there was an acknowledgment that nearby properties did have more flood constraints. She noted the request was merely to change the master plan and regulatory zone designations.

On motion by Chair Hill, seconded by Commissioner Andriola, which motion duly carried on a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Clark voting no, it was ordered that Agenda Item 24 be adopted, approved, and authorized. Chair Hill stated she could make the findings listed in the Staff Report. Any and all Resolutions pertinent to Agenda Item 24 are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

**24-0235**      **AGENDA ITEM 25** Public Comment.

Ms. Penny Brock was disappointed that the first Board of County Commissioners' (BCC) meeting was canceled for multiple months in a row. She asked that Vice Chair Herman's election integrity resolution be placed on the agenda. She spoke about the contracts she previously requested. She said a passcode was needed to access certain contracts, which had been problematic, so she had requested Portable Document Format (PDF) versions be sent to her instead. She discussed the transparency reflected in Commissioner Andriola's suggestion about Checkbook Nevada and asserted that all of the County's contracts should be accessible to taxpayers online. She mentioned the County's budget report and observed that it supported the hiring of two staff members related to animal care. She loved animals but hoped the Assessor's Office would be a higher priority

because it generated income. She questioned why the elected Treasurer did not oversee the budget. She thought it would create more accountability and mentioned that county clerks oversaw elections in rural counties. She suggested that an elected official oversee elections. She thought election issues would be rectified if the County Clerk oversaw elections. She said the hired County Manager was responsible for the budget and elections, which did not provide accountability to the taxpayers and voters.

County Clerk Jan Galassini advised the Board she received emailed public comments which were placed on file.

**24-0236**      **AGENDA ITEM 26** Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Clark requested a report from staff regarding the lack of action taken after the previous security review was completed at the Second Judicial District Court (SJDC) in 2017. He mentioned Mr. Gregory Fair, the owner of Northern Nevada Barber Academy in the City of Sparks. He wanted to find out when Mr. Fair could begin performing haircuts for the unhoused and senior populations.

Commissioner Clark discussed a text he received from Mr. Peter Lissner. He stated that Mr. Lissner notified him about a van that was purchased in March 2017 for \$19,530. The van was supposed to belong to the Cold Springs seniors but there had been issues with storage. However, the van could be safely kept at the Cold Springs Family Center. He commented on Cold Springs's proximity to the California border and said the seniors in that area knew they had a van dedicated to them but wondered why it was not used. He stated some of the seniors in that area could not drive. He had located multiple potential volunteer drivers who had the proper certifications, but he could not locate the van. He questioned if the van was still in the County's possession and where it was being stored. He requested more information. He declared the seniors wished to use the van for its intended purpose, for rides into town. Vice Chair Herman inquired about the van's location and said she was the one who had arranged for its purchase. She assured it was supposed to belong to the seniors in Cold Springs. She commented that it was a quality, white van that was used to transport seniors into town and to doctor appointments for a time. Chair Hill advised that no additional Commissioners should speak about the van because it was not agendized.

Vice Chair Herman was concerned about the moist nature of the spring season because she had not received information about the area's mosquito issues. She advised that they should be forward-looking because the County's previous helicopter pilot was no longer available. She noted that the County had used ineffective drones, and she desired a report on the topic.

Commissioner Garcia disclosed that she would not be at the next Board meeting due to her attendance at a meeting for the National Association of Counties (NACo) appointed Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education. She stated that Commissioners could communicate their ideas or suggestions to her prior to Tuesday, and

she would be happy to represent them at the meeting in Las Vegas. Chair Hill thanked Commissioner Garcia for representing Washoe County on the committee.

Chair Hill asked Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Nathan Edwards if he could provide a reminder moving forward regarding land use discussions. She clarified that opposing Commissioners were asked to examine if the findings had been met in case of future litigation. ADA Edwards preferred that Commissioners state their findings on the record, regardless of whether they voted in favor of or against the agenda item. He advised it was not mandatory because if the action was supported by the record, then it was legally viable and defensible. He noted that in the case of litigation, it was easier to have the motioning Commissioner and the opposing Commissioner state why they made or opposed the motion because it could be easily explained to a judge.

Commissioner Clark asked ADA Edwards what the likelihood of a lawsuit was if a motion was carried. ADA Edwards replied that it was unlikely. He advised it was also unlikely that the County would lose in any of those potential challenges because courts gave deference to the County's actions. Commissioner Clark stated he received negative attention from the mayors of the Cities of Reno and Sparks for his vote against Ordinance 1715 at the previous Board meeting, even though the motion carried. He voiced confusion at the behavior when the outcome met their wishes, and he stated it was an example of political bullying. ADA Edwards said he would treat Commissioner Clark's comment as a rhetorical question.

ADA Edwards reported that the District Attorney's (DA) Office preferred that the movant and opposers state the reasoning for their actions on the record for all land use application items. Commissioner Clark asked if reasoning should be stated on all votes moving forward. ADA responded that the Board could make that determination.

Commissioner Andriola shared that she had many conversations with former Nye County Clerk Mark Kampf while he was the active clerk. Since he was no longer in the position, she requested that he give a presentation to the Board. She expressed gratitude to County Manager Eric Brown and staff because she met with Manager Brown on multiple occasions with the request, and she knew staff was pursuing the opportunity. She said Mr. Kampf had a lot of knowledge and understood the statutory constraints regarding elections, so she thought it would be helpful to have him share his extensive experience.

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**3:51 p.m.** There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

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**ALEXIS HILL**, Chair  
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

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

*Minutes Prepared by:*  
*Kendra DeSoto-Silva, Deputy County Clerk*