



Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Gerlach/Empire Citizen Advisory Board held on **July 21, 2022**, 6 p.m. at the Gerlach Community Center, 410 Cottonwood, Gerlach, NV 89412, and via teleconference.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** – Elisabeth 'Schatzi' Gambrell, Tina Walters, Andy Moore, Allen Nash. Kristy Evans attended via zoom.
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- 3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT** – There were no requests for public comment.
- 4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF JUNE 16, 2022 (for Possible Action)**
– Elisabeth Gabrell moved to approve the minutes of June 16, 2022. Andy Moore seconded the motion. Kristy Evans abstained. The motion carried unanimously.
- 5. ELECTION OF 2022-2023 GERLACH/EMPIRE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR (for Possible Action)**
MOTION for Chair: Elisabeth Gambrell nominated Tina Walters as Chair. Andy Moore seconded the motion which carried unanimously.
MOTION for Vice Chair: Allen Nash nominated Elisabeth Gambrell as Vice Chair. Andy Moore Seconded the motion which carried unanimously.
- 6. WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE – Washoe County Sheriff's Office general update (Non-Action Item)**

Deputy Burns provided information regarding golf carts. He spoke about bringing up the radar trailer. Mr. Nash asked if that applies for ATV. Deputy Burns said if they have break lights and taillights.

Ms. Evans said she spoke with Deputy Burns about this and about major concerns she has about the Burning Man event – speeding, trespassing, sleeping in cars around town, and parking on people's private lots. Deputy Burns addressed her concerns about speeding, trespassing, and camping within city limits. Trespassing needs to be initiated by a responsible party in order to conduct trespassing. Ms. Evans asked how to act on behalf of another property owner. Deputy Burns said it's not official, but the owner can give a written document and a letter of permission signed to act on their behalf. He also recommended posting 'no trespassing signs. Mr. Nash asked if a renter is considered an owner. Deputy Burns said he would have to check but said there is a lease agreement stating they live there and can remove people from their property. He said he would get back to the CAB with the answer.

- 7. EMS/FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACT UPDATE – Don Pelt, Fire Chief, Pyramid Lake Fire Rescue/EMS, will share an update on the contract negotiations between Washoe County (Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District) and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. (Non-Action Item)**

He said it has been a long year of waiting, but on July 12, the Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved the agreement between Washoe County and the Tribe for EMS services. On July 15, the council met, it was passed 7-1. On July 16, 8 a.m., Pyramid took over staffing. You are now covered with 24 protection, two firefighters, one paramedic, and one EMT. You are on the way to getting the service you have wanted.

Regarding Burning Man, he has been in contact with them about services. He said our services will cost them more money. He said we proposed they pay for additional services for the 21 days of the event. The BLM agreement with the Tribe is 21 days. We are proposing the same level of service here as we do down at the lake for 21 days. He said that is the proposed action.

He spoke about the ambulance saver program. He said if your ambulance bill is \$2,000, the balance of \$1,000. The tribal members don't have to pay the balance. He said \$65 a year would cover the necessary transportation for what the insurance doesn't cover. He highly encouraged everyone to look into this investment. Ms. Gambrell said this doesn't cover REMSA. Mr. Pelt said they have a similar program called Silver Saver. You can get the package that covers care flight and ground transportation. He spoke about the travel time for the ambulance. He said we might use mutual aid to help cover the area. He provided a rundown of how it will work out here. We are here to help the community.

He spoke about a doctor referral program that lets the EMS do limited home care. He said we are hoping to get that up and running soon. He said our goal is to keep the lights on and help keep people out of debt.

Mr. Moore asked about the volunteer. Mr. Pelt said we are always looking for volunteers. He said getting volunteers is hard because the criteria are so different. You have to take many classes, including 160 hour Fire Fighter 1 class and a blood-borne pathogen class. By that time, they want to get a paycheck. People aren't apt to volunteer anymore. He said we run our own EMT and Fire Fighter 1 class.

Mr. Pelt spoke about personnel and his availability. Some people don't like to call 911, so it's ok to call us.

Marne Benson, a representative with Burning Man, said Burning Man is pleased with this agreement and supports TMFP and Pyramid Lake Fire. She said we were happy with them. His costs are 3.5 times than 2019. I'm sure we will come to an agreement.

Ms. Gambrell asked about covid tests in the fire station. The Pyramid Fire representative said we have plenty of boxes.

Ms. Gambrell said she would like to include this announcement in the local news source. Mr. Pelt shared their Facebook and Instagram page. Ms. Gambrell said we have been working on this for years and are happy to hear about this agreement.

Mr. Nash asked how the ambulance saver works if you don't have insurance. Mr. Pelt said it would cost you \$250. Our current costs for 2022-2023 are \$1500 base fee and \$37 a mile. The applications are available at the Senior Center or Fire House.

Captain Pritchard provided an update on calls for service. He spoke about community preparedness.

8. ENVISION 2040 UPDATE - Eric Young, Senior Planner from Washoe County, will share updates on the developing High Desert Area Plan, as part of the overarching Washoe County Envision 2040 Comprehensive Plan update. Provide your feedback and hold an interactive discussion with Washoe County to provide insight into how the Gerlach and Empire area will develop in the future. (Non-Action Item)

Eric Young provided an update.

Ms. Gambrell said with this process, we've talked about housing which is a big thing, there have been community members have tried to apply for permits based on the high desert area plan, and the staff tells them no. She said refreshing this manual will become a rural community and not a suburb of Sparks, Reno. Mr. Young said that's what I'm supposed to be doing for you. He said people who live in Spanish Springs, North Valleys, and people who live off of Mt. Rose Highway say they are also rural. He said you need to be specific in what Rural means to you.

A public member said there had been discrimination with building for this area. He said he would love to

see a working session out here to spend time with local residents. Mr. Young said lets set that up. Ms. Gambrell said we can add it to the agenda for next month. She asked Mr. Young to come up earlier than the meeting. A public member said we are in an affordable crisis up here.

Matthew Ebert said he was a CAB member from 2003-2008 and was part of the high desert area plan revision. He said an overlay district along the main street was to address business and relax certain standards and landscaping requirements. He said he agrees there is frustration with community work around the character statement in the plan, but when it comes to development, there is still push back by Community Development at Washoe County. He said it's good to have a revision and to look forward to the concept.

Mr. Young said he is interested in discussing an overlay district with businesses. He said once he fully understands the issues, we can address them long-term. He said he is excited to walk around with anyone who wants to join them. He encouraged everyone to complete the survey.

9. NV ENERGY REGIONAL UPDATE – Laney Elmore, Regional Engineer, NV Energy, will provide an update to Gerlach residents from agenda item 7 from the April 2022 Gerlach/Empire CAB meeting. (Non-Action Item)

Ms. Elmore was not present.

10. BROADBAND INTERNET UPDATE – Behzad Zamanian, Washoe County Chief Information Officer, will share an update on expected expansion of broadband internet to Gerlach. (Non-Action Item)

Behzad Zamanian provided a Powerpoint slideshow.

Ms. Gambrell asked how broadband works for people living in the middle of nowhere. Mr. Zamanian said the vendor would install 12 strands of fiber for our project. During construction, they will add 36 strands of strands for their own use. They could lease their lines to provide broadband to the community. We could help the vendor and apply for grants available 'last mile high-speed internet to homes and customers. The cost will cost \$500,000 to pull fiber to each home. The vendor is planning to move forward once we get that.

Mr. Moore asked who the vendor. Mr. Zamanian said Digital Technology Solutions (DTS). They have other contracts with Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. They help them with fiber optic.

Mr. Moore asked for monthly costs. Mr. Zamanian said he doesn't know right now. DTS has a website; they have information. He wasn't sure if the Gerlach information was available.

Mr. Zamanian thanked the Pyramid Paiute Tribe, the State Office of Science, Innovation, and Technology, and the county manager Brown.

11. STEWARDS OF THE BLACK ROCK – Matthew Ebert and Laura Blaylock will provide a briefing. (Non-Action Item)

Matthew Eberts provided an update on the newly formed Stewards of the Black Rock 501©3.

12. WASHOE COUNTY COMMISSIONER UPDATE- Washoe County Commissioner Jeanne Herman may be available to provide updated information on discussions and actions by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). (Non-Action Item)

Commissioner Herman was not present.

13. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS — This item is limited to announcements and/or requests for future agenda items by CAB members. (Non-Action Item)

Ms. Gambrell inquired who she files our Freedom of Information Act with to find out what Washoe County reported to the Federal Government regarding how the PILT money was received in 2021.

Ms. Gambrell inquired about a lighted crosswalk at Main and Sunset (crossing Main). The road belongs to Washoe County. She would like someone from County Roads to speak to us.

Mr. Moore wants to know if the FCC requires the flashing light on a radio tower?

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

Deputy Burns said he wanted to follow up on Mr. Nash's question about golf carts – all carts must have headlights, breaks, and a mirror. Tail lights, reflectors, stop lamps, or placards for slow-moving vehicles. He said he wanted to follow up on the question about the trespassing call for the renter or occupant of the land of the building. They will have to prove it later if it goes to court. He said we would take your word for it when we arrived at the call.

ADJOURNMENT – the meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.