



NORTH VALLEYS CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of the regular meeting of the North Valleys Citizen Advisory Board held December 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

1. *CALL TO ORDER/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM - The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Pat Shea. A quorum was present. Members of the North Valleys CAB include Teresa Aquila, Wendy Leonard, Roger Edwards and Derek Schoepf. Absent: Wesley Johnson, Craig Durbin

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The pledge was recited.

3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT –

There were no requests for public comment.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 8, 2021 (For Possible Action)- Roger Edwards moved to approve the minutes. Wendy Leonard seconded the motion to approve the minutes which passed unanimously.

5. ARPA FUNDING UPDATE – Information on the use of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding for broadband and other community infrastructure services (Non-Action Item)

Gabriela Enfield, Community Re-investment Manager, introduced herself and provided a PowerPoint slideshow update. Roger Edwards asked for clarification about the Sheriff's position. She said we are able to hire those positions now instead of waiting for July 2022. There will be funds in the budget. He expressed concerns about one-time money for long-term positions that we will have to pay for down the road. She stated the Sheriff's office is unique. There will be an increase in their budget during the budget cycle that will start July 2022. The money will be allocated in 2022. The money will be taken out of ARPA to accelerate the hiring process now. Roger Edwards inquired about the grant-making process. Ms. Enfield stated we receive grants all the time; we will be sub-granting ARPA funding out to non-profits such as the food bank. Roger Edwards asked how this is new and improved as this is one-time funding. She stated we do not have a sub-granting process; she said it was a case-by-case basis, but not an open competitive process like this now.

Teresa Aquila asked if ARPA requires you to document where the funds go. Ms. Enfield spoke about criteria and scope with community-based non-profit and documenting where the funding goes. Derek Schoepf asked if water and sewer are ARPA eligible. He asked about urgent projects recommended. He stated Lemmon floods and wondered why that isn't considered urgent. He also noted there are a lot of homeless. He asked why that wasn't deemed urgent. Ms. Enfield stated water and sewer projects are part of the stormwater project for \$3.5 million dollars. That was submitted to the State. The projects that are urgent on this list need to be addressed immediately. We have more than 600 people in the shelters. The number of people experiencing homelessness has exploded, which is why the urgent focus.

Pat Shea asked if the CAB could apply for a one-time project such as the speed monitoring post, as mentioned during the Sheriff update. Ms. Enfield stated she wasn't sure if ARPA would be the best fund or eligible expense for that.

A public member spoke about paying a lot more with taxes. He said he wants to know what is happening but doesn't want to go online. He said he would like a report on money spent on Lemmon Valley. We are talking

about spending new money. Why do we start new projects and not address old projects. He said he pays their wages. Derek Schoepf encouraged him to go to the Board of County Commissioner meeting.

Ron, Golden Valley resident, asked what happens to the funds that aren't spent in a timely manner. Ms. Enfield stated that typically, if the federal funds are not spent by the term dates, they will go back if we don't spend them.

6. WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE UPDATE - General community update

Marc Bello introduced himself and provided an update regarding fundraising efforts, filing a report, and prioritizing calls. He introduced Chief Herrera, who spoke about goals, significant incidences, illegal dumping, and abandoned vehicles.

Mr. Hubert asked if they would have a satellite station out here. Chief Herrera spoke about partnering up with Mr. Lissner in Cold Springs to increase our footprint. He spoke about technology with a body camera. He said he would like to have an expanded footprint out here. It's on our radar. He stated we are looking at fire stations to be established. Roger Edwards spoke about funding and staffing cuts. He asked how it's impacted them. Lt. Bello stated there hadn't been any staffing cuts, and the Sheriff Department has been receiving many applications. He stated we are receiving the highest number of applicants in the area. He said we just had 20 people go through graduation. We are working diligently to fill positions opened up by retirements and promotions. Chief Herrera spoke about the organization and positions since Sheriff Balaam has taken over.

Wendy Leonard stated she is retired from the Sheriff's office. The previous meeting, people expressed concerns the Sheriff's department wasn't present at the meeting to provide an update. She thanked them for being here and caring about the community. The public members care about having the Sheriff's here. It's important to see you out here. We are excited to see more staffing. Thank you for working on the issues out there.

Ron, Public member, spoke about speeding in front of the high school. He asked if the radar trailer could be installed. Lt. Bello stated the motor division handles these service requests. He stated he would let them know of his concern. It's a large county to cover.

Deedeh Peterson said she has an issue with speeding and quads and razors. She said she is always hassled on her horse with them out there. Chief Herrera addressed her concerns about speeding and provided information regarding off-road enforcement. She asked if they are street legal. Lt. Bello stated it isn't exactly clear; there are provisions that allow off-road vehicles on public streets. He spoke about their ability to ride a short distance on the road, to access gas, properly insured on non-highway county roads. He stated there is an education piece with the community.

Roger Edwards asked if they would bring back a cost for the speed trailer to take to the BCC. Lt. Bello stated he can gather that information. Derek Schoepf asked what happens to the data that is collected by the speed trailer. He asked if it would show speeding patterns. Lt. Bello stated it helps guide staffing in that area. He said it's also a friendly reminder to the driver that they are speeding. Teresa Aquila stated 311 is also a resource to report an issue.

Dwayne Hubert, Lemmon Valley resident, asked where the fees go that they pay. Lt. Bello spoke about education and outreach.

7. WASHOE COUNTY COMMISSIONER UPDATE-

Alexandra Wilson stated Commissioner Herman wasn't able to attend. Commissioner Herman encouraged the community to contact her if you have questions or concerns: (775) 501-0002 or via email at jherman@washoecounty.gov

8. CAB MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS — There were no announcements.

9. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT –

Public comment from Janet Hand via zoom submitted her comment via email as well. "Good evening. I am Janet Hand, a resident of North Red Rock Road in the Rancho Haven/Sierra Ranchos community. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you tonight about some of the challenges we face in this rural part of Washoe County. Our area has over 600 lots, most of which are 10 acres or more in size and we are about 40 miles from Reno. During emergencies it can take some time for paid first responders to arrive on-scene, so we have the Red Rock Volunteer Fire Department and Washoe County Sheriff Office CERT team to assist with emergency needs in the interim if requested.

One challenge we face is limited internet services. Currently there are 2 primary internet providers, Rural Telephone of Idaho has DSL, and Plumas Sierra Rural Electric has wireless internet. Both present challenges due to coverage area, speed, reliability and cost. And the latter goes out whenever we have a power outage causing concern during times of extreme weather and wildfires. This limits our ability to send out communications to our neighbors during emergencies through our neighbor generated email and Facebook groups.

Another challenge is Cell service in our area. The topography causes several areas with little or no service. Many residents have cell boosters which can help in some areas, but they also go off when there is a power outage, hampering communications.

As you consider use of the ARPA funding, I would appreciate your thinking of ways these services might be improved in our area.

Also, in June of 2017 a meeting was held with our County Commissioner, Truckee Meadows Fire Chief, Washoe County Emergency Manager and others. They had a plan to upgrade some of the services at the Volunteer Fire Station. Some of these improvements were to install a generator, large water tank, fuel station and do driveway repaving. None of which have happened. I would also appreciate your looking into the status of those items as they would benefit our community greatly as we try provide emergency services in our area.

If desired, I would be happy to assist anyone looking into these items and to help pull together some local experts to further discuss these topics and find solutions. Thank you."

David Brown, Antelope Valley resident, spoke about a local solution to internet connection issues.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.