

1 The Honorable Board of Lander County Commissioners met in regular session in the  
2 Commission Chambers of the Lander County Courthouse and Administration Building in Battle  
3 Mountain, Nevada, 50 State Route 305, on March 25, 2021 at 9:00 AM.

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5 **PRESENT: PATSY WAITS, COMMISSIONER**  
6 **ART CLARK III, COMMISSIONER**  
7 **KATHLEEN ANCHO, COMMISSIONER**  
8 **BRYAN SPARKS, COMMISSIONER**  
9 **WALLACE (JR) THOMAS, COMMISSIONER**  
10 **BERT RAMOS, COUNTY MANAGER**  
11 **KATHY DUVALL, COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE**  
12 **PEGGY SURLA, COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE**  
13 **SADIE SULLIVAN, COUNTY CLERK**  
14 **THEODORE HERRERA, DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
15 **ELIZABETH MACDONALD, DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S**  
16 **OFFICE**

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18 (Let the record reflect the presence of a quorum of five commissioners. Let the record  
19 reflect the presence of Austin via teleconference. Let the record reflect the meeting is also  
20 via Audio Conference by Go-To-Meeting.)

21  
22 **9:00 AM**

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24 Chair Kathy Ancho called the meeting to order.  
25 Commissioner Sparks led the Pledge of Allegiance.  
26 Chair Kathy Ancho called for a moment of silence.

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29 **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

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31 Commissioner Waits: Patsy attended the Kingston Town Board meeting. Their emphasis  
32 was on the budget and that's already been approved so she didn't go into that part. She attended  
33 the virtual legislative conference with NACO. NACO has worked very hard on the American  
34 Rescue Plan to make sure the counties would get that directly. One speaker was Grant Beebe, the  
35 director for Fire and Aviation with the Bureau of Land Management. He gave a report on  
36 everything that had happened during the 2020 season with wildfires. Throughout the whole  
37 country there were 58,250 wildfires, and on any one day the most firefighters deployed were  
38 32,727. They did have 15 fatalities throughout the country-9 were aviation, 4 were medical, and  
39 2 were entrapments. That's always a sad thing to see and we're thankful there weren't more with  
40 all the fires that happened. A lot of acres burned, with 1.3 million acres of Greater Sage Grouse  
41 habitat affected. In the Great Basin we had 455,587 acres effected. She hopes this year is going  
42 to be better.

43 Another speaker was Chris French, who is the acting Under Secretary for Natural  
44 Resources and Environment with the USDA. He talked about a new bill called the Great  
45 American Outdoors Act of 2020. They are going to identify different projects that they would

46 like to handle and right now they have identified 565 that will be priorities. They have  
47 \$285,000,000 that is provided through the Act, and an additional \$100,000,000 that's been given  
48 to them through private resources. They will be fixing and repairing roads, facilities, trails, and  
49 visitors' centers. They have identified 80,000 miles of roads and 160,000 miles of trails and will  
50 be working with our counties. At the parks that are open, visitation is up over 200% through the  
51 COVID. They found that 30% of those visitors had never been to a national park before.

52 Commissioner Clark: Art stated that he didn't have any meetings to report on but he  
53 wanted to say that he was just joking when he stated at the last meeting to Bert to make the  
54 budget meeting as painless as possible. He said that it really did go well and it was as painless as  
55 possible.

56 Chair Kathy Ancho: Kathy mentioned that she had received calls from people whose  
57 budget request did get cut and they said they understood why they were cut. They weren't upset  
58 and that was nice.

59 Commissioner Sparks: None.

60 Commissioner Thomas: None.

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### 63 **STAFF REPORTS**

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65 Bert Ramos (County Manager): Bert stated that Lander County is currently at zero cases  
66 for COVID. Everything else he has is either on the agenda or an upcoming agenda.

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### 69 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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71 Amy Nelson: Amy stated she is getting more and more alarmed about what is happening  
72 at our federal and state levels. Somehow she got roped in to working with Taking Nevada Back.  
73 It's a lobbying group and she's looking at legislative bills to summarize them and send them  
74 back to the legislators. She said that the things coming through with these bills are even more  
75 alarming than what she talked about a couple of meetings ago, regarding things in the school  
76 curriculums. She wants the commissioners to be aware of things going on. She feels there is a  
77 concerted effort to take control out of the hands of local governments. She spoke about SB318  
78 and the demands that would be costly with the unfunded mandates. She said that the bills are  
79 very well coordinated across the country, and not just being introduced locally.

80 Commissioner Clark: Art stated that he felt like this intrusion into education really started  
81 back when NCLB (No Child Left Behind) was introduced. It sounded good. Where it fell apart  
82 was they did all the testing to collect the data but they didn't do the character development that  
83 Bush talked about.

84 Commissioner Waits: Patsy wanted to let people know that today is the National Medal  
85 of Honor Day. They started giving the Medal of Honor in 1863 and since then have given out  
86 3,526 medals. The thing about a Medal of Honor is that a lot of lives were usually sacrificed for  
87 them to get that award. They always say that when they get it, that it's for the comrades that they  
88 lost.

89 Chair Kathy Ancho: Kathy referred back to some information on the Constitutional  
90 Sheriffs' Association from the last meeting. She did some research and wanted true information.

91 She contacted Richard Mack and he stated that the information about him on Wikipedia and the  
92 Southern Poverty Law website is not true. She wanted to clarify that the organization they joined  
93 was not part of any white supremacist group and they are about protecting the community.  
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96 **CONSENT AGENDA**  
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98 Chair Kathy Ancho read in the consent agenda items, numbered 1 through 7. Items #2,  
99 #4, #5, and #6 were pulled.

100 Commissioner Waits made a motion to approve Items #1, #3, and #7. It was seconded by  
101 Commissioner Sparks.

102 **Motion to approve Item #1, #3, and #7:** Commissioner Waits;

103 **Seconded by:** Commissioner Sparks;

104 **The motion was voted and carried.**  
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107 **COMMISSIONERS**  
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110 **1) COMMISSIONERS: For possible action to approve/disapprove the payment of**  
111 **bills.**  
112

113 Chair Kathy Ancho began by pulling out checks #211109, #211198, #211284, and  
114 #211194.

115 Commissioner Waits made a motion to approve paying the balance of the bills.  
116 This was seconded by Commissioner Sparks.

117 **Motion to approve:** Commissioner Waits;

118 **Seconded by:** Commissioner Sparks;

119 **The motion was voted and carried.**

120 Commissioner Waits made the motion to approve paying checks #211109,  
121 #211198, #211284. This was seconded by Commissioner Ancho.

122 **Motion to approve:** Commissioner Waits;

123 **Seconded by:** Commissioner Ancho;

124 **The motion was voted and carried, with Commissioner Sparks abstaining as**  
125 **the checks are to his employer.**

126 Commissioner Sparks made the motion to pay check #211194. This was seconded  
127 by Commissioner Ancho.

128 **Motion to approve:** Commissioner Sparks;

129 **Seconded by:** Commissioner Ancho;

130 **The motion was voted and carried, with Commissioner Waits abstaining as**  
131 **the check was paid to her.**  
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2) **COMMISSIONERS: For possible action to approve/disapprove the appointment of Troy W. Ross MD as the Lander County Health Officer at an hourly rate of \$125.00 per hour, not to exceed \$60,000 per year, with a contract to follow and to start immediately.**

Bert Ramos (County Manager): Bert stated that he put this on here so that we can get a qualified health officer in place for Lander County. Troy Ross is on the phone with us.

D.A. Ted Herrera: Ted stated that the statute that covers this is included in the backup and this is a two-year appointment. The County Health Officer has the power to appoint a deputy health board officer.

After a short discussion Commissioner Sparks made the motion to approve. It was seconded by Commissioner Clark.

**Motion to approve:** Commissioner Sparks;  
**Seconded by:** Commissioner Clark;  
**The motion was voted and carried.**

Bert Ramos (County Manager): Bert asked that Chair Kathy Ancho chair this portion of the meeting as Dr. Troy Ross is attending by phone and probably not prepared to jump in as Chair at this time. Dr. Ross was welcomed by the Board.

**RECESS THE BOARD OF THE LANDER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND CONVENE THE MEETING OF THE LANDER COUNTY HEALTH BOARD COMPOSED OF THE LANDER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, SHERIFF RON UNGER, & LANDER COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER (CHAIR)\***

Items #3 - #7 are being opened up and discussed together.

3) **HEALTH BOARD: For discussion and possible action to endorse Resolution 2021-04 with reference to the Nutritional Guidance for Lander County Citizens and to make a recommendation for approval to the Lander County Board of Commissioners.**

Dr. Troy Ross (LC Health Officer): The guidance in the resolution is grounded in science and clinical practice. Very little information is put out to the public for individuals to know what they can do to support their own health. There is confusion on the part of practitioners on what they are able to offer their patients. This resolution will clarify what is available in medical literature that can reasonably help to support maintaining their own health or for the medical professionals as they offer advice to their patients.

D.A. Herrera: Ted stated that each resolution is important and has a specific purpose. The last sentence of the beginning paragraph of each one states that these are

180 recommendations only from the Lander County Health Board and all medical and  
181 treatment decisions should be made after consultation with your medical provider.

182 Chair Kathy Ancho: Kathy was concerned that even with this statement in bold  
183 type there may be citizens that take this as something that should be done because the  
184 County is recommending it and won't consult a doctor.

185 It was stated again that if they feel the need to consult with a medical provider it  
186 is recommended strongly that they do it.

187 Commissioner Waits: Patsy started to make a motion that we take these five  
188 resolutions that are guidance for Lander County citizens and recommend those for  
189 approval to the Lander County Board of Commissioners.

190 Chair Kathy Ancho said that she had some concerns on some of the resolutions  
191 and wanted to talk more about them. They proceeded with the following public  
192 comments.

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194 Public Comment:

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196 Dr. Henry Ealy: Dr. Ealy stated that he heads up a team of professionals that  
197 includes licensed medical practitioners, and P.H.D. therapists. They have invested over  
198 20,000 hours into the empirical evidence surrounding COVID. They have published five  
199 peer-reviewed papers, the latest being on COVID, which is titled *COVID-19-Restoring*  
200 *Public Trust during a Global Health Crisis*. It's one of the first papers to look at the  
201 evidence supporting the efficacy of clinical treatment. They have been trying to work  
202 with state agencies since June of last year to get information out to the public to help save  
203 lives. He referred to evidence-based studies and other treatments that might be used to  
204 combat COVID.

205 Chair Ancho wanted people to understand that these are recommendations and the  
206 Board has no authority to enforce them. People need to work with their own healthcare  
207 providers. She doesn't want to be tearing down physicians that may not think certain  
208 things are in the best interest of their patients.

209 Dr. Ealy stated it's a valid fear and people can fall back on the Patients' Bill of  
210 Rights that all organizations, including the American Medical Association champion and  
211 teach in their medical courses. It is a doctor's duty to present to the patient the full scope  
212 of treatment options available to them. Then they need to step back and let the patient  
213 decide on the course of action that is best for them. He believes these resolutions will  
214 help bring that point forward for people to realize they need to work with their physicians  
215 on these things for their best interests.

216 Chair Ancho spoke about the choices people can make for their health and they  
217 might need to change physicians if they can't get the help they desire. That is their choice  
218 and we can't dictate that. We are putting information out there for people to make their  
219 own choices.

220 Another person spoke at this point. He stated his name but it was unintelligible  
221 due to static from the phone connection. He stated that he is the director and CEO of a  
222 not-for-profit that's focused on biomedical research in the public interest. Where he sees  
223 the uniqueness and the initiative that the county is undertaking here is that there is  
224 insufficient information given by anyone out there on the extreme value of proper

225 nutrition and enabling patients to better fight corona virus and other infectious diseases.  
226 He spoke about the science and importance of Vitamin D3 for the immune system to  
227 better use any immunity they may have, through infection or vaccination. He wanted to  
228 congratulate us on taking up this issue, particularly on the local level versus the federal or  
229 state levels. He learned this year that medical standard of care is determined by local  
230 physicians, and not from the top down. What we've seen with COVID-19 and for years is  
231 an inversion of that and an intrusion of public health into allopathic (conventional)  
232 medicine to the point where allopathic medicine is being led around by the nose by public  
233 health. Public health servants are often not medically trained physicians. He wanted to  
234 emphasize that if there's a battle that comes when you're setting your medically  
235 constrained populations free sometimes they're afraid of that freedom. There are  
236 physicians that don't yet know the high, high value of the success rate of augmenting  
237 nutrition with supplements. He would also add quercetin and selenium to that. The public  
238 is not being informed on these things. There is science behind tying nutrition to health  
239 and he congratulates us on taking this up.

240 Chair Ancho spoke about the fact that if there are issues down the road with this  
241 shot or any shots out there that there is no recourse if something happens. She wants  
242 people to make informed decisions for themselves.

243 Dr. Ealy spoke again and he wanted people to know something that the CDC has  
244 known for the last twenty years. Americans are deficient in Vitamin A, C, D, E, and zinc.  
245 These are key essential nutrients for optimized immune functions with respect to any  
246 infectious disease, including a vaccine, which should be viewed as an artificial infection  
247 because its job is to inspire the production of antibodies. To increase the safety of any  
248 biologic we need to have our citizens having nutrient availability in their bloodstreams.

249 If you want to decline the vaccine these nutrients will help in the meantime until  
250 the studies are complete on the clinical trials. This will help prevent the spread and get us  
251 back to work, school, and getting back to life as we know it.

252 Deficiencies in the contact tracing and testing were mentioned in detail.

253 Commissioner Sparks stated that you cannot hold the vaccine companies  
254 accountable at any time. He wants people to know these are recommendations and not  
255 requirements.

256 Amy Nelson spoke about her son's experience when this first came up. He's  
257 young and healthy, excellent nutrition and vitamins. He got COVID and his place of  
258 employment made him go in and get tested. He got the swab up the nose and she was on  
259 the phone. She demanded that he get HCQ and the doctor refused. He said his license  
260 would be revoked if he prescribed it. She wanted to know if these resolutions would have  
261 any bearing on a situation like that.

262 Chair Kathy Ancho said that as they stated at the beginning these are  
263 recommendations and they have no control over what a doctor does. She would need to  
264 ask an attorney for the legal side of things.

265 Dr. Ealy talked about this issue happening last year with banning or restricting  
266 certain medicines that doctors can use. He addressed other issues with the way the  
267 pandemic has been handled. That's why these resolutions are a great tool to get people  
268 the information on options they may ask for through their physicians. He feels these

269 resolutions will empower doctors and nurses to get this information out, to give guidance  
270 and recommend things to their patients.  
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272 Commissioner Waits stated that her motion was to approve the resolutions for the  
273 guidance for our citizens. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sparks. The  
274 motion was voted on and carried.

275 **Motion to approve:** Commissioner Waits;

276 **Seconded by:** Commissioner Sparks;

277 **The motion was voted and carried, with Dr. Troy Ross and Robert Quick**  
278 **(Undersheriff) also voting Aye.**  
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281 4) **HEALTH BOARD: For discussion and possible action to endorse Resolution 2021-**  
282 **05 with reference to the Treatment Guidance for Lander County Citizens and make**  
283 **a recommendation for approval to the Lander County Board of Commissioners.**  
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285 **Motion to approve:** Commissioner Waits;

286 **Seconded by:** Commissioner Sparks;

287 **The motion was voted and carried, with Dr. Troy Ross and Robert Quick**  
288 **(Undersheriff) also voting Aye.**  
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291 5) **HEALTH BOARD: For discussion and possible action to endorse Resolution 2021-**  
292 **06 with reference to the Testing Protocol Guidance for Lander County Citizens and**  
293 **make a recommendation for approval to the Lander County Board of**  
294 **Commissioners.**  
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296 **Motion to approve:** Commissioner Waits;

297 **Seconded by:** Commissioner Sparks;

298 **The motion was voted and carried, with Dr. Troy Ross and Robert Quick**  
299 **(Undersheriff) also voting Aye.**  
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302 6) **HEALTH BOARD: For discussion and possible action to endorse Resolution 2021-**  
303 **07 with reference to the Elder & Disabled Resident's Rights Guidance for Lander**  
304 **County Citizens and make a recommendation for approval to the Lander County**  
305 **Board of Commissioners.**  
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307 **Motion to approve:** Commissioner Waits;

308 **Seconded by:** Commissioner Sparks;

309 **The motion was voted and carried, with Dr. Troy Ross and Robert Quick**  
310 **(Undersheriff) also voting Aye.**  
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- 7) **HEALTH BOARD: For discussion and possible action to endorse Resolution 2021-08 with reference to the Vaccine Informed Consent Guidance for Lander County Citizens and make a recommendation for approval to the Lander County Board of Commissioners.**

**Motion to approve:** Commissioner Waits;  
**Seconded by:** Commissioner Sparks;  
**The motion was voted and carried, with Dr. Troy Ross and Robert Quick (Undersheriff) also voting Aye.**

**ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE LANDER COUNTY HEALTH BOARD AND RECONVENE THE MEETING OF THE LANDER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS\***

Chair Kathy Ancho read in agenda items #8 - #12 for approval of Resolutions 2021-04, 2021-05, 2021-06, 2021-07, and 2021-08. The resolutions were voted on individually.

- 8) **COMMISSIONERS: For discussion and possible action to approve/disapprove Resolution 2021-04 with reference to the Nutritional Guidance for Lander County Citizens.**

**Motion to approve and read in, with Chair to sign:** Commissioner Waits;  
**Seconded by:** Commissioner Sparks;  
**The motion was voted and carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

- 9) **COMMISSIONERS: For discussion and possible action to approve/disapprove Resolution 2021-05 with reference to the Treatment Guidance for Lander County Citizens.**

**Motion to approve and read in, with Chair to sign:** Commissioner Clark;  
**Seconded by:** Commissioner Waits;  
**The motion was voted and carried.**



359 10) **COMMISSIONERS: For discussion and possible action to approve/disapprove**  
360 **Resolution 2021-06 with reference to the Testing Protocol Guidance for Lander**  
361 **County Citizens.**

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363 **Motion to approve and read in, with Chair to sign: Commissioner Sparks;**  
364 **Seconded by: Commissioner Clark;**  
365 **The motion was voted and carried.**  
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368 11) **COMMISSIONERS: For discussion and possible action to approve/disapprove**  
369 **Resolution 2021-07 with reference to the Elder & Disabled Resident Rights**  
370 **Guidance for Lander County Citizens.**

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372 **Motion to approve and read in, with Chair to sign: Commissioner Clark;**  
373 **Seconded by: Commissioner Sparks;**  
374 **The motion was voted and carried, with Commissioner Ancho voting Nay.**  
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377 12) **COMMISSIONERS: For discussion and possible action to approve/disapprove**  
378 **Resolution 2021-08 with reference to the Vaccine Informed Consent Guidance for**  
379 **Lander County Citizens.**

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381 **Motion to approve and read in, with Chair to sign: Commissioner Thomas;**  
382 **Seconded by: Commissioner Clark;**  
383 **The motion was voted and carried.**  
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386 **\*\*\*A break was taken from 10:37 AM – 10:48 AM\*\*\***  
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389 13) **COMMISSIONERS: For discussion and possible action to change the start time of**  
390 **the Lander County Board of Commissioners meeting set in Austin, Nevada, July 8,**  
391 **2021.**

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393 **Commissioner Waits: Patsy stated that she would like meeting held in Austin to**  
394 **start a little later. It takes an hour and a half to get down there and a good half hour to set**  
395 **up so she'd like to move the meeting time to accommodate that.**

396 **Commissioner Clark made the motion to start the meeting at 10:00 AM. It was**  
397 **seconded by Commissioner Sparks.**  
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399 **Motion to start meeting at 10:00 AM: Commissioner Clark;**  
400 **Seconded by: Commissioner Sparks;**  
401 **The motion was voted and carried.**  
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404 14) **COMMISSIONERS: Discussion and possible action to approve/disapprove the**  
405 **renewal of the contract for HintonBurdick CPAs & Advisors, auditors for Lander**  
406 **County for the fiscal year 2021 and 2022.**  
407

408 Commissioner Clark made the motion to approve the renewal of the contract with  
409 HintonBurdick CPAs & Advisors. It was seconded by Commissioner Sparks.

410 **Motion to approve, with Chair to sign:** Commissioner Clark;

411 **Seconded by:** Commissioner Sparks;

412 **The motion was voted and carried.**  
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415 15) **COMMISSIONERS: For discussion and possible action to approve/disapprove the**  
416 **Proposal from J-U-B Engineering for engineer of record for the Battle Mountain**  
417 **and Austin airports.**  
418

419 David Meyer (J-U-B Engineering): David stated he was here in case they had any  
420 questions.

421 D.A. Ted Herrera: Ted stated that they do an excellent job for Lander County.

422 There being no questions Commissioner Clark made the motion to approve the  
423 proposal from J-U-B Engineering. It was seconded by Commissioner Thomas.

424 **Motion to approve:** Commissioner Clark;

425 **Seconded by:** Commissioner Thomas;

426 **The motion was voted and carried.**  
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429 16) **COMMISSIONERS: For discussion and possible action to approve/disapprove a**  
430 **request from the Battle Mountain All-Class Reunion to allow a “free-day” for the**  
431 **public at the Recreation Center on July 24, 2021.**  
432

433 Sean Bakker (Recreation Center): Sean explained that they are asking for the  
434 same thing they had done last year. Commissioner Clark made the motion to approve this  
435 request. It was seconded by Commissioner Sparks.

436 **Motion to approve:** Commissioner Clark;

437 **Seconded by:** Commissioner Sparks;

438 **The motion was voted and carried.**  
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441 17) **COMMISSIONERS: For discussion and possible action to develop a procedure for**  
442 **the Lander County Commissioners’ representative to NACO on how to proceed in**  
443 **supporting or not supporting upcoming legislative bills and all other matters taken**  
444 **up by NACO.**  
445

446 Bert Ramos (County Manager): Bert stated that this is about the concern he  
447 brought up at the last meeting in his update on how we proceed with voting at NACO.  
448 It’s open for discussion now and Patsy can fill us in on how the process works.

449 Commissioner Waits: Patsy began by stating that most of the bills that we support  
450 are things the counties agree on and support. There are some things that would support  
451 Washoe and Clark and not the rural counties, and we don't take a stand on those. On ones  
452 that may get a little bit hairy, like the indigent counsel one Judge Shirley brought up, she  
453 thinks there were four or five people that were against it. NACO did not take a stand on  
454 that and that's why they did not. She has had concerns on things that haven't been  
455 discussed, because they are new and she wouldn't have any idea on how anybody feels  
456 about it. A lot of things are just recycled and recycled, like the sage grouse and public  
457 lands and how we stand on those. Patsy said that NACO is not a political organization,  
458 per se, so they don't vote one way or the other, they vote the way the representatives on  
459 NACO stand. When they had the public lands discussions she was uncertain on many  
460 things and she brought that back to the Board for guidance and where to go. Most of  
461 these things are just good for all of the counties, and if they aren't we haven't taken a  
462 stand. She hopes she hasn't missed anything coming through. The one that Bert and  
463 Kathy were concerned about was the new one that actually asked the counties to create  
464 their own county counsel, and this is separate from the district attorney's office. We have  
465 had some concerns with that over the years with prior district attorneys and what to do  
466 when there were problems. Some of the concerns that were brought up at the meeting  
467 were by folks that didn't agree with the district attorney's office and they were looking  
468 for alternatives in those situations. That's the one that has been the more recent topic. It  
469 did not come back before the Board. She thought it could be a concern because of things  
470 from previous years and she did talk to Kathy about it too. It isn't mandated, it's just an  
471 option. Anytime a bill goes through that's an option for counties to utilize she thinks it's  
472 okay. If she's out of line on that then she needs more direction and some parameters on  
473 what you'd like. Many of us sit on advisory boards and have voting privileges and we do  
474 it for the benefit of the counties involved. Anytime there's something that could be  
475 controversial, a little bit unusual, or is not a benefit to most counties, those she tries to  
476 bring back to the Board.

477 Chair Kathy Ancho: Kathy would like something put in place so that things to be  
478 voted on come before the Board so they have a say, before the voting takes place. She  
479 didn't know how this works until these last few months and she thinks there should be a  
480 consensus of the Board before voting takes place. If she were sitting on the Board she  
481 would want to know what the Board thinks before voting.

482 Commissioner Waits: Patsy said she understands the Board involvement but most  
483 of the things that go on are in the best interest of the county. If it's going to be anything  
484 controversial, absolutely. We sit on other boards and are required to make decisions all  
485 the time with the county's best interests in mind. Everyone gets the information that  
486 NACO sends out. She encourages everyone to go on the Board and some are on the  
487 legislative committee where we get the inside information.

488 Chair Kathy Ancho: Kathy gave another example, that being the innovation  
489 zones. She felt it should have been looked at sooner, before moving forward on any vote.

490 Commissioner Clark: Art stated that what needs to happen is the NACO  
491 representative needs to come to this Board with an agenda item, we discuss it and then  
492 we can approve it. They represent the will of the Board, the people in Lander County.

493 Commissioner Sparks: There should be no vote cast without the majority of the  
494 Board supporting it.

495 D.A. Herrera: It's his understanding that when the NACO committee and  
496 representatives meet they agendaize that meeting. That should give the representatives  
497 from all the different counties notice to get with their boards to find out the position their  
498 board takes on the issues. One commissioner does not have the legal authority to vote or  
499 present a view to NACO or any other body. Ted stated that in talking to the Winnemucca  
500 D.A. he doesn't believe any of the boards realized that their representative was making a  
501 vote on their behalf.

502 Commissioner Sparks: Bryan spoke about an issue last year where NACO had  
503 taken a neutral stance on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment. He feels that a neutral stance might as well  
504 be a vote against. A neutral stance is a loss for one of the sides. He's not okay with that.

505 Chair Kathy Ancho: Kathy wants things to be brought back to the commission  
506 board to have a consensus of opinions.

507 There was additional discussion on whether NACO was a lobbyist organization or  
508 not. D.A. Herrera said that it is and Commissioner Waits feels they are not. Lobbyists  
509 have their own set of rules to follow and NACO is part of the intergovernmental system.

510 Commissioner Clark: Art had questions on backup material for #11 that was about  
511 a BDR that would allow each county to create an office of county counsel that would be a  
512 personal attorney for the commission. He stated this would exclude the peoples' will of  
513 the elected D.A. The backup further stated that *it would be enabling language only, not a*  
514 *requirement. Commissioner Waits expressed support for the measure, citing previous*  
515 *issues in Lander County.* He continued by asking Commissioner Waits what those  
516 previous issues were that you felt were so imperative, to slap Ted and Hy in the face.

517 Chair Kathy Ancho: Kathy stated that when this came up on a state legislative call  
518 she thought there could be a need for it at some point. She notified the D.A. that she had  
519 said that on the record. That's why she thinks things need to come back for a consensus  
520 because there are things taken out of context and she saw a need. It wasn't a slap in the  
521 face in the conversation on there, and not how it was meant.

522 Commissioner Waits: Patsy reiterated what she had stated about having had a  
523 discussion with Kathy and her concerns over the checkered past we've had in in Lander  
524 County with some previous district attorneys. She gave her reasons for thinking this  
525 could possibly be a good alternative for a county that might be having problems.

526 Chair Kathy Ancho: Kathy stated that this is why we need to have these things  
527 brought back to the Board to get a consensus on the issues.

528 Bert Ramos (County Manager): Bert's concern is that NACO represents all 17  
529 counties and if one county disagrees with an issue and they move forward with it they're  
530 not representing the one county. It seems like a conflict of interest that we should think  
531 about, moving forward.

532 Commissioner Sparks: Bryan spoke about hiring a lobbyist to represent us.

533 Commissioner Clark: Art expressed his thoughts on what he feels is lack of  
534 representation by NACO on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment.

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538 PUBLIC COMMENT:

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540 Amy Nelson: Amy stated that she doesn't know anything about NACO but that  
541 the same thing is happening with the state education association, the teachers' union, and  
542 the national teachers' union. They are being infiltrated and we're being silenced. Right  
543 now she can't go to the legislature. Everything is being done by phone or write in.  
544 Basically, the public is closed out of the legislative session. It's basically legislation  
545 without representation. This is where we are right now. There's probably infiltration in  
546 NACO without any of us being aware of it and we tend to expect the best out of people.  
547 In this legislative session things are going to get shoved through and there's very little  
548 voice, and very little opposition because it's very hard to get in to them. She thinks hiring  
549 a lobbyist with a legal background would be a smart idea. She has 30 years in education  
550 and she's very upset with the way things are going.

551 Commissioner Waits offered to get her the information on the delegate they have  
552 had in the legislature that has tried to open that up and they have shut her down. She is  
553 starting on it again.

554 There was discussion on what guidelines to use for bringing things back before  
555 the Board before they were voted on. NACO's neutral stance on issues was not viewed  
556 favorably.

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559 **Item #19 was opened up at this time, to go along with the discussion that was taking**  
560 **place from Item #17, regarding participation in NACO.**

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563 19) **COMMISSIONERS: For discussion regarding all possible benefits/detriments in**  
564 **Lander County's continued affiliation with NACO and to take any possible action**  
565 **required.**

566

567 Chair Kathy Ancho: Kathy stated that she has information on the things that  
568 NACO does and they do good things. She's not going to take that away from them at all.  
569 On political topics they should be brought to the Board and everyone should have a say.

570 Commissioner Clark: Art wanted to know if it was true that NACO supports  
571 Black Lives Matter.

572 Chair Kathy Ancho: Kathy stated that she had done some digging on that and she  
573 found out that the Black Lives Matter group had asked different organizations if they  
574 could come and speak at their conferences. They allowed them to come in to speak  
575 because they want racial diversity. She has not found anything about them supporting  
576 Black Lives Matter.

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580 PUBLIC COMMENT:

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582 Cindy Clark: I am a taxpayer here in Lander County and I am shaking mad. I am  
583 shaking mad because we're involved in something that takes a neutral stance on the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
584 Amendment. She expressed her displeasure over the possibility of hiring a separate  
585 lawyer besides the one she voted for.

586 Commissioner Waits: Patsy stated that is not what is being said. The counties are  
587 allowed to create a county counsel for the commission, if they so choose.

588 Chair Kathy Ancho: Kathy said that she wanted to keep this calm and asked what  
589 they wanted to do.

590 Discussion continued with different opinions being expressed for and against  
591 NACO. Bert spoke about an instance he heard on a call where it was stated that we  
592 needed to tread lightly regarding the innovation zones because we don't know who is  
593 involved. He doesn't believe we should tread lightly but to stand for truth. On the county  
594 council, they said it was being thrown in the can and not moving forward. They found out  
595 later that it was moving forward. He circled back to when the county did not sign the  
596 governor's past, present, future mandate for the COVID money. NACO reached out and  
597 said you guys can definitely get the money. It won't bind you legally. So we said give us  
598 the money. They wanted us to sign a legal document, even though they said it's not  
599 binding. Commissioner Clark interjected with his observation of seeing Dagny Stapleton  
600 with commissioners from Lincoln County laughing about the fine print on that money.  
601 She told them to just sign it and take the money, that it's non-binding.

602 Bert mentioned a phone call he was on the previous evening. There are other  
603 counties that are being told by NACO to fill out and put together a re-opening plan for  
604 the Governor's Directive 041 and that they don't have to be truthful, just mimic what the  
605 Governor's 041 states. It's not transparent, open, and honest. He wants things on the  
606 record in an open meeting and not done by phone calls made from his office with the  
607 door closed. People can reach out to him anytime by email or text. It can become part of  
608 the record that way. He wants everything to be transparent.

609 Commissioner Ancho and Commissioner Waits weighed in on why they were  
610 trying to make conditions to signing. Patsy stated she did ask Bert to call Dagny and they  
611 talked to them about how could the governor put conditions on the money. He can do  
612 whatever he pleases but it could be a lawsuit later on. So Dagny went back and asked  
613 national NACO about it. The money was supposed to be released directly from the  
614 Treasury Department and it was voted on by Congress that they pay the states to pass  
615 down. It got to be convoluted and that's why Dagny said we should still be able to get the  
616 money, whether we sign it or not. The new funding under the Rescue Act does come  
617 directly.

618 Commissioner Sparks stated that the governor wants a re-opening plan for every  
619 county. There's a list of questions and NACO is saying just say yes, even if you intend to  
620 not follow what you're saying yes to. That's an integrity question.

621 Commissioner Waits asked if they had been told that directly from Dagny. Bert  
622 said that it was not said to us directly, but that he could gather up information from others  
623 that had been told this. Commissioner Waits wondered where this was coming from  
624 because it had not come from any of us. D.A. Herrera stated that we had threats, and that  
625 Dagny was tagged on it. Commissioner Waits stated that it was unfair for Dagny to not  
626 be allowed to present her side of this. D.A. Herrera stated that she doesn't have a side,

627 with reference to our communication with a state representative. Commissioner Waits  
628 would like to hear from her on this.

629 Chair Kathy Ancho asked if they could at least try to move forward with having  
630 things brought back to the Board before voting on them. There was discussion on  
631 whether Directive 041 had been brought to Patsy in any way and she had not received  
632 any communication on it from NACO. Patsy stated she had read the Governor's Directive  
633 and that's how she knew about it. Discussion continued with Patsy explaining that she  
634 had questions and had wanted to know what we were going to do.

635 Chair Kathy Ancho asked if they could try for six months to one year to have  
636 things be brought back to the Board before voting, to see how that could work. If it didn't  
637 work then they would be done. After a short discussion Commissioner Sparks made a  
638 motion to withdraw Lander County's membership with NACO, effective immediately. It  
639 was seconded by Commissioner Clark.

640 **Motion to withdraw from NACO:** Commissioner Sparks;

641 **Seconded by:** Commissioner Clark;

642 **The motion was voted and carried, with Commissioner Waits voting Nay.**

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645 **\*\*\*A break was taken from 11:43 AM – 11:49 AM\*\*\***

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648 **18) COMMISSIONERS: For discussion and possible action to approve/disapprove or**  
649 **amend the Lease agreement for the Battle Mountain Airport Hangars.**

650

651 Bert Ramos (County Manager): Bert got numbers back from Fred Wagner and it  
652 would cost \$10,961.86 to put individual electric meters out there.

653 Commissioner Sparks: Bryan had a meeting with Mr. Peterson and rather than  
654 putting more money into them he'd like to have them rented at a reasonable enough  
655 amount to attract renters.

656 Commissioner Clark made a motion and then amended the motion, to approve  
657 and amend the lease agreement to \$150.00 per month and \$50.00 per month for utilities,  
658 for a monthly rental amount of \$200.00, and Chair to sign. It was seconded by  
659 Commissioner Waits.

660 **Motion & Amended motion to approve:** Commissioner Clark;

661 **Seconded by:** Commissioner Waits;

662 **The motion was voted and carried.**

663  
664

665 **20) LANDER COUNTY SHERIFF: Discussion and possible action regarding Federal**  
666 **mandates related to E911 phone systems reporting, budgeting considerations in FY**  
667 **2021-2022 for upgrading the current County VoIP system to comply with those**  
668 **mandates, and rolling monies related to project FA-9 (FY 2020-2021).**

669

670 Robert Quick (Lander County Undersheriff): Robert stated that he's providing a  
671 briefing on the Voice IP phone system that you approved for this fiscal year. You've

672 already approved a rollover on the money to next fiscal year. He couldn't get this  
673 information into the budget packet in time so he's providing the update now. Essentially  
674 there is a federal law requiring an update to our voiceover IP system relating to 911.  
675 What it does is it requires them to be able to provide an exact location of where someone  
676 is calling when calling in to 911. There are software updates that have to be done to our  
677 current system. He's not sure operationally how that will affect us next year when we  
678 move forward with it. It will provide the sheriff's office with the exact location of the  
679 phone that called. Currently we have a workaround for it that is utilized at the sheriff's  
680 office. This is a software addition that's required by federal law because we are  
681 upgrading our system and adding the six buildings to the voiceover IP system in the  
682 county. Two are in Austin, the courthouse and sheriff's office, and four up here. As long  
683 as the commission desires to still move forward with it that is our intent. The only thing  
684 that wasn't included on the budget side for the upgrade was programming costs related to  
685 the current system that Quest will have to do to parse out things for the voiceover IP  
686 system. He doesn't have a number at all for that because it's contracted pricing and may  
687 potentially use the computer line for that. He said this is an unfunded mandate unless you  
688 wanted to impose an additional tax as a 911 surcharge, which the commission has already  
689 elected not to do. There will be an increase to the maintenance costs as well, because of  
690 this mandate. He will get with Bert on that. He needs to know what direction they want to  
691 go on implementing this. The new I.T. person would need to work with Quest on this to  
692 get things programmed into the county infrastructure. Robert wanted to know if they  
693 wanted him to wait for the new person to be in place so that they have full knowledge of  
694 what's in those, other than the two sheriff's office responsibility buildings, so that they  
695 know what the configuration is and how to support those buildings, or if they wanted him  
696 to move forward and they'll have to catch up.

697 There was discussion on how to proceed on moving forward with this project and  
698 hiring a new I.T. person.

699  
700 ~Commissioner Clark left the meeting at 12:01 PM~

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703 **21) BUILDING DEPARTMENT: For possible action to approve/disapprove one of the**  
704 **following proposals for the Lander County Courthouse & Administration Building**  
705 **fire sprinkler system.**

- 706  
707 1) Over Head Fire Protection in the amount not to exceed \$1,115.00  
708 annually. (Recommended by Building Department and supported by  
709 County Manager)  
710 2) Delta in the amount not to exceed \$5,710.00 annually.

711  
712 Anna Penola (Building Official): Anna explained that this had been before them  
713 previously. It just needed to be changed to a two-year contract with an extra clause in the  
714 contract. Commissioner Sparks made the motion to approve. It was seconded by  
715 Commissioner Waits.  
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**Motion to approve:** Commissioner Sparks;  
**Seconded by:** Commissioner Waits;  
**The motion was voted and carried.**

**22) CORRESPONDENCE: Correspondence/reports/future agenda items.**

Chair Kathy Ancho asked if a resolution was needed for NACO outlining the reasoning why we did whatever. D.A. Herrera stated that would not be appropriate since we're technically not a part of NACO now. They're just an organization and we don't need their permission to withdraw. He's going to read the contract to see if there's any problems we have with that.

It was also stated that we have a lobbyist currently and it may be possible to have the state issues be incorporated in with their work. Bert and Ted will look into that and bring it back to the commission Board.

The re-opening plan and the governor's directive will also be addressed.

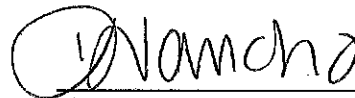
**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Commission at this time, Commissioner Sparks moved to adjourn the regular session of March 25, 2021. Seconded by Commissioner Thomas, the motion was voted and carried. **ADJOURNED.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 12:06 PM.**



**CHAIRMAN OR VICE CHAIRMAN OF  
THE BOARD OF LANDER COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS AND THE LANDER  
COUNTY LIQUOR BOARD**



**ATTEST:**  
**LANDER COUNTY CLERK**