

1 The Honorable Board of Lander County Commissioners met in special session in the
2 Commission Chambers of the Lander County Courthouse and Administration Building in Battle
3 Mountain, Nevada, 50 State Route 305, on April 14, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

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

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18 **ABSENT: ART CLARK III, COMMISSIONER**

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20 (Let the record reflect the presence of a quorum of four commissioners. Let the record
21 reflect the presence of Austin via teleconference. Let the record reflect the meeting is also an Audio
22 Conference by Go-To-Meeting.)
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25 **9:00 A.M.**

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27 Chair Kathy Ancho called the meeting to order.
28 Commissioner Sparks led the Pledge of Allegiance.
29 Chair Kathy Ancho called for a moment of silence.
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32 **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

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34 None.
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37 **STAFF REPORTS**

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39 None.
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42 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Kathy Ancho read in consent agenda item # 1.

Commissioner Sparks: Bryan made a motion to approve #1, the special agenda notice, and this was seconded by Commissioner Thomas.

Motion to approve selected item: Commissioner Sparks;
Seconded by: Commissioner Thomas;
The motion was voted and carried.

COMMISSIONERS

- 1) **COMMISSIONERS: For discussion and possible action to approve/disapprove the Lander County tentative budget for FY 21-22 and the submission to the Department of Taxation.**

Commissioner Waits began by stating that she would like to go through each one, not line item by line item, but take them individually, and would like to start with Austin.

There was some discussion regarding the need to go through all, as each one was already approved individually, with Commissioner Waits stating she would like to go through each one rather than doing a blanket motion.

With Commissioner Sparks and Chair Ancho needing copies of the documentation a break was taken in order to obtain the copies.

*** A break was taken from 10:06 a.m. to 10:13 a.m. ***

Commissioner Waits: Patsy wanted a couple of clarifications on the Austin Budget on page 15 for the Austin water fund, intergovernmental transfer in lieu of taxes, questioning what the transfer was.

Laken Sullivan: Laken stated that was for the C tax, for consolidated taxes that Austin Water and Sewer District #2 used to get, and a portion of that will still be given to Austin Water to get some revenue sources because the fund balance is so low.

Commissioner Waits: Patsy stated that she knew of the fund balance being low at \$24,000. She has a question on the different incomes on page 8. One says counting gaming licenses; she asked if that is also liquor licenses, not just gaming, and if it is all included.

Laken Sullivan: Laken stated that in the audit book it shows up as gaming and it does not say liquor.

Chair Ancho: Kathy asked if there was a need for liquor and gaming to be separated out.

Laken Sullivan: Laken stated that she thinks in the county budget, in the big one it is separated out, but in the town's it is not.

90 Commissioner Waits: Patsy stated that under the revenues, specifically the business
91 licenses, we do not have that many businesses and she thinks we are estimating high on the
92 revenue.

93 Laken Sullivan: Laken stated that if you look on the first column that is the actual
94 audited numbers of what came in last fiscal year in 20, so we go off of that. She continued
95 by saying that it did come in a little low because of COVID and that she did not want to
96 adjust it down too much because we still brought in \$1,100 for business licenses.

97 Commissioner Waits: Patsy stated that she knows there are still people working
98 from home with the business licenses, but the main businesses in town have not been open
99 so she was concerned. She then had a question on the cemetery fees, wondering when they
100 open and close if that goes to Road and Bridge.

101 Laken Sullivan: Laken stated that yes that is what people pay to have a plot.

102 Commissioner Waits: Patsy stated then that only one plot was sold.

103 Laken Sullivan: Laken confirmed yes, FY 20 was really low on the cemetery fees.

104 Commissioner Waits: Patsy remarked on the cost of a plot being \$200 and she wasn't
105 sure where we were getting the \$50.00.

106 Laken Sullivan: Laken stated that she would need to check with Justi on that.

107 Commissioner Waits: Patsy stated that there is a perpetual fund that \$100.00 is
108 charged, and she thinks the numbers are off a little but she is ok with estimates. She then
109 continued with another clarification needed on the town index where all the pages are
110 listed. The lobbying expense estimate on page number 19 was taken off; that leaves us with
111 schedule 31; the existing contract, which is number 19, and then privatization contracts
112 number 20.

113 Laken Sullivan: Laken clarified that the ones the commissioners currently have are
114 correct as she already made the corrections.

115 Commissioner Waits: The next clarification Patsy was needing was the same on
116 Battle Mountain, which Laken has already done. Her next question was on Lander County,
117 page number 14. On the layout expenditures by function and activity, there is the Austin
118 Volunteer Fire Department, Austin Ambulance, Battle Mountain Volunteer Fire
119 Department, and Battle Mountain Ambulance. She is wondering where we budgeted for
120 the Kingston benefits for the volunteer fire department.

121 Laken Sullivan: Laken stated that it is budgeted for on the intergovernmental page.
122 There was continuing discussion on if it needs to be on page number 14, under public
123 safety, with Laken informing that it is done as a transfer because there is not a department
124 for them. She believes that it is included on page number 16, under expenses.

125 Commissioner Waits: Patsy then inquired as to why on page number 15, for the
126 public defender, there is the amount that we have now, we estimated \$120,000, and then
127 approved \$283,000.

128 Laken Sullivan: Laken informed the board that amount was for all of the mandates
129 that had to be included that Judge Shirley spoke of during the budget workshop.

130 Commissioner Waits: Patsy then stated that the extra \$95,000 that Judge Shirley
131 brought up is not anything that we will be paying for. The state will be paying for it.

132 Liz Macdonald: Liz informed that we have to pay for it first then the state pays us
133 back, with Laken agreeing that we have to submit for reimbursement from the state.

134 Commissioner Waits: Patsy stated that with the \$95,000 and the extra we are giving
135 the public defender for his mandates, she doesn't think it came to this high amount.

136 Laken Sullivan: Laken replied that the public defender's contract increased and that
137 is not reflected in the current budget, and she believes it went up \$10,000. They did the
138 \$95,000 and \$40,000 she believes. There was additional conversation, with Commissioner
139 Ancho asking what the \$40,000 was for. Laken responded that it was for new duties of the
140 public defender that Judge Shirley didn't speak of, and the stuff he did speak of was for the
141 administrator they would possibly have to hire.

142 Liz Macdonald: Liz informed that position is the \$95,000 amount.

143 Commissioner Waits: Patsy then asked about our lobbying expense and why we
144 don't have to put that in from last year or this year.

145 Lake Sullivan: Laken responded that the page that is normally included in this never
146 has anything on it and they don't have to submit anything if they don't have anything, but
147 it is only an estimate for the next legislative session which would not be proper for this
148 budget. They should have put an estimate on 2021's budget for this year's legislative
149 sessions and the only thing they are required to report by NRS is what is spent. She
150 continued that she has spoken to Bert about this and 30 days after the session ends a report
151 has to be submitted of what we spent for lobbying.

152 Commissioner Waits: Patsy then asked if we had any lobbying on the state, and if
153 our lobbying are basically federal contracts. They do not do any lobbying on the state and
154 this is a state budget, and if they want to know lobbying for federal.

155 Lake Sullivan: Laken replied that if the county hires a lobbyist they want to know
156 what we paid our lobbyist, how much we paid for meals, travel, and session.

157 There was continued discussion that it is on legislative years only, and lobbying is
158 lobbying if it is at the state or federal level.

159 Commissioner Waits: Patsy then asked for clarification on page 33 under the capital
160 acquisition fund. The one under public works where we are estimating we had \$1,629 and
161 if we will be spending more this year, or if it will be the total at the end of the year.

162 Laken Sullivan: Laken clarified that the middle column is for the controlled
163 environment food storage and they have brought that down to \$250,000. They have not
164 spent any of that money currently but they have also added in the wildlife enhancement so
165 that is why it is back up to \$500,000.

166 Commissioner Waits: Patsy then thanked Laken for the clarification and stated that
167 she did not have anything further.

168 Chair Ancho: Kathy then asked if anyone had anything further.

169 County Manager Ramos: Bert then asked if they are approving the whole budget
170 right now as it stands because he wanted to answer a previous question from Commissioner
171 Ancho and Commissioner Sparks in regards to the question they had about the 2%. Bert
172 stated that it only reflects to himself and Donnie, everybody else only gets the 4% that are
173 salary employees. It wouldn't be fair to everyone else that are getting the 2% cost of living
174 that are a salary employee because they are still only entitled to the 4% that the regular
175 employee of the county is. It only applies to the two of them so if they are going to make
176 that change now would be the time to do it.

177 Commissioner Ancho: Kathy stated the 2% that was approved, that they take the
178 2% off because that puts him above everyone else because of his contract. She thanked
179 Bert for addressing this.

180 Some additional discussion occurred to clarify their two positions to be the 5% per
181 the contract, not the 5% plus the 2%.

182 Laken Sullivan: Laken asked if they were ok with it, if she can send this as is and
183 then make this change, as she has to send it out by tomorrow. The Commission agreed it
184 was fine and there was no further discussion.

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186 **Motion to approve:** Commissioner Sparks;
187 **Seconded by:** Commissioner Thomas;
188 **The motion was voted and carried.**

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191 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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193 None.

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196 **ADJOURNMENT**

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199 There being no further business before the Commission at this time, Commissioner Sparks
200 moved to adjourn the special session of April 14, 2021. Seconded by Commissioner Thomas, the
201 motion was voted and carried. **ADJOURNED.**

202 Meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

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

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211 ATTEST:



LANDER COUNTY CLERK

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