

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 February 25, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.
4

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 **ROBERT QUICK, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE/S.O.**
16 **ELIZABETH MACDONALD, DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S**
17 **OFFICE**
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19 (Let the record reflect the presence of a quorum of five commissioners. Let the record
20 reflect the presence of Austin via teleconference. Let the record reflect the meeting is also
21 via Audio Conference by Go-To-Meeting.)
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23 **9:00 AM**

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25 Chair Kathy Ancho called the meeting to order.
26 Commissioner Clark led the Pledge of Allegiance.
27 Chair Kathy Ancho called for a moment of silence.
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30 **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

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32 Commissioner Waits: Patsy stated that she had a couple of meetings. One was the Central
33 Nevada Regional Water Authority. They are really busy tracking the bills and we got updates on
34 all the different legislative measures that are going on and proposed. We're opposing some and
35 endorsing some, so that's ongoing.

36 On the 17th she attended a virtual workshop handled by NACO and it was a webinar on
37 the opioid settlement. It was extremely interesting and some of the states have already settled
38 with the manufacturers. It's kind of like the tobacco settlement but they didn't want everything
39 going to the states so some is going to the counties and they went over some of what's being
40 done with the money.

41 Yesterday, February 24th, the Nevada Mining Association had a full day for mining
42 advocacy with a digital legislative day and meetings throughout the day. There was a session
43 with a couple legislators and Tyre Gray, President of the Nevada Mining Association. One was
44 our assemblyman, Howard Watts, who is on the Natural Resources Committee, and the other
45 was Senator Pete Goicoechea. Alexis Hansen also addressed them. The biggest thing she saw the

46 whole day was that we have to be active and be advocates. They all said to email them, they
47 want to hear from us. They said that 68% of people are getting their information from social
48 media and the focus needs to be on real facts and doing research.

49 Another thing to share is Senate Bill SB77 that Eureka County introduced. They actually
50 testified before the Senate Committee on Government Affairs and the bill is a very narrow
51 exception to our open meeting laws. It would allow county commissions to meet in a closed
52 session with the federal agencies when we discuss projects under NEBA, if we're a cooperating
53 agency. The goal of the bill is to encourage the fullest cooperation possible with the elected
54 officials of the county rather than resort to private meetings with a single commissioner or non-
55 elected county staff. The bill was brought forth by J.J. Goicoechea, Eureka County
56 Commissioner, and Eureka County Natural Resource Engineer, Jake Tibbetts. NACO did testify
57 in favor of that and we're looking forward to support on that measure and that would be a nice
58 thing for us, continuing on with the federal agencies.

59 Commissioner Clark: Art tried to attend a virtual meeting on the Sentencing Committee.
60 It lasted five minutes and two seconds and then he couldn't get back into it. He's not sure what
61 happened.

62 Commissioner Ancho: Kathy attended the Humboldt River Water Authority meeting by
63 Zoom and she couldn't hear it well. She got just bits and pieces of the different things and will
64 get the minutes from the meeting to bring that back. Last Friday she did another Zoom meeting
65 for the NACO legislative meeting. Once again China Springs was brought back up and it looks
66 like we'll be paying more because of the budget cuts. We use the program less than some other
67 counties and we need to pay attention to the amount of money we pay.

68 Commissioner Sparks: No report.

69 Commissioner Thomas: JR attended the water board meeting in Lovelock. Most of their
70 information was through the end of January and we get more snowpack in February so what they
71 were talking about doesn't really pertain to now. We were at about 37% on snowpack in January
72 and it is way higher now. We'll see when the updated information comes through. Rye Patch is
73 really low and only has enough in it to handle watering one time in the watering season. It was
74 looking pretty bleak but now it is starting to look better. JR also mentioned that they are putting
75 in a salmon farm at Cosgrave and they'll be raising 50,000 tons of salmon a year.

76 Commissioner Ancho mentioned that at that meeting they were talking about payments to
77 lobbyists and that those payments were being re-evaluated as the lobbyists are being blocked
78 from attending in-person right now and having limited contact.

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81 **STAFF REPORTS**

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83 Bert Ramos (County Manager): Bert stated that most everything he has is on the agenda.
84 For COVID we have three active cases and we were as low as one.

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87 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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89 None.

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CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Kathy Ancho read in the consent agenda items, numbered 1 through 7. Item #2, #4, #5, #6 and #7 were pulled.

Commissioner Waits made a motion to approve Item #1, and #3. It was seconded by Commissioner Sparks.

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

Seconded by: Commissioner Sparks;

The motion was voted and carried.

COMMISSIONERS

1) **COMMISSIONERS: For possible action to approve/disapprove the payment of the bills.**

Chair Kathy Ancho pulled out checks #210756 and #210834. Commissioner Sparks made a motion to approve the balance of the bills. It was seconded by Commissioner Clark.

Motion to approve balance of bills: Commissioner Sparks;

Seconded by: Commissioner Clark;

The motion was voted and carried.

Commissioner Waits made the motion to approve paying checks #210756 and #210834. This was seconded by Commissioner Clark.

Motion to approve: Commissioner Waits;

Seconded by: Commissioner Clark;

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

9:15 A.M.

2) **PUBLIC HEARING: For possible action to approve/disapprove the adoption of Ordinance 2021-01 to change the Hospital District Board membership from seven (7) members to five (5) members.**

Chair Kathy Ancho read in the title of Resolution 2021-01. Jason Bleak, CEO for Battle Mountain General Hospital, appeared for this item. He wanted to share his appreciation for going through this process with them. In the past it's been difficult to place a seven-member board through the regular election. They're able to place five on a regular basis and always looking to appoint two. The hospital board requested this and they appreciate the consideration of this request.

Commissioner Waits wanted it on the record for future reference as to why the seat lettering would be missing Seats D & E. As those are the two empty seats at this

136 time, they are the ones being eliminated. Going forward there will be Seats A, B, C, and
137 F.

138 Hospital Board member Doug Mills, came forward to echo what Jason Bleak had
139 to say. He explained that the current situation makes it hard to have a quorum. They've
140 been pretty lucky so far that they haven't had to cancel any meetings. Seven members
141 does seem to be overkill and five should work well. He also wants the public to know that
142 they look forward to hearing from them and they are welcome to come to the meetings.

143 Commissioner Waits made the motion to approve the adoption of Ordinance
144 2021-01 to change the Hospital Board membership from seven (7) to five (5) members. It
145 was seconded by Commissioner Sparks.

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

147 **Seconded by:** Commissioner Sparks;

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

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151 3) **COMMISSIONERS: For discussion and possible action to set a date in March 2021**
152 **for Budget Workshops.**

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154 There was discussion on what dates might work. It was decided that March 22nd
155 and 23rd would work for the budget workshop meetings.

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158 5) **COMMISSIONERS: For discussion and possible action to approve/disapprove**
159 **Resolution 2021-03 removing Lander County from the State of Emergency.**

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161 Commissioner Sparks asked that they move to Item #5. Commissioner Waits had
162 some concerns to address before the resolution was read into the record. She stated that
163 we have taken this very seriously. She has been affected by this personally, as so many
164 people have been. It does sometimes leave lingering health issues and it's a very serious
165 thing that we've been looking at. She had concerns about referring to the Great
166 Barrington Declaration on page 2 of the resolution. There are two sides to every story and
167 when this came out the World Health Organization and American Public Health
168 Association, along with a hundred others were strictly against this and did not agree with
169 it. Some of us may agree with it, or parts of it. Of the 52,000 signatures on it, many were
170 bogus made up names, some even vulgar, which kind of ruined the whole intent of the
171 people that took it seriously. She felt that the resolution could be passed without having
172 that be part of it and having it look like we are approving it. Her other concern was
173 towards the end where we're speaking to having the schools open with no restrictions and
174 no masks. She would like to see us say 'optional masks' or take out the word masks
175 completely and just say open up. She does not agree with the full lockdown that we have
176 had and may be looking at future lockdowns. We're taking a stand and we're doing it
177 very thoughtfully. She's hoping that they might look at those two things that she has
178 brought before them.

179 Commissioner Sparks read the resolution in. Commissioner Waits then asked if
180 there was any appetite for taking out the two things she mentioned. Chair Ancho asked if

181 the school still has to follow the Department of Education guidelines and Bert Ramos
182 said that they would. Commissioner Waits felt that it's overboard to say no masks. She
183 felt that the whole point was that we're letting everybody make their own decisions.

184 It was then opened up for public comment. Cindy Clark was the first to speak
185 during public comment. She stated her background in education and she believes we
186 could say we are in support of the schools being open and that we are in support of the
187 schools being there without masks, even though they may have to make their own
188 decisions on what to do. She thinks the resolution was very well written and she supports
189 it.

190 Amy Nelson also spoke during public comment. She stated her approval of what
191 the board had done during the pandemic, and that it is hard to know what is true and not
192 true with everything coming at us. Amy stated her background in public education and
193 that it is the one year anniversary of 'two weeks to slow the spread' and we thought it
194 was only going to be two weeks. Now we're almost 365 days later. She spoke on how
195 devastating it has been for children and that they have a very high recovery rate. She
196 appreciates what Patsy said about giving people options to choose whether to wear
197 masks, and they can still choose to follow social-distancing. She feels there has been a
198 severe abuse of power by Governor Sisolak and it has harmed our state and businesses.
199 It's an excellent resolution and the constitution was designed to protect us from the
200 government and to limit the powers of the federal, state, and local government. She feels
201 there has been severe overreach in the area of wearing masks and that it's time to take a
202 stand.

203 In response to a question from Commissioner Clark, D.A. Herrera confirmed that
204 everyone is allowed to wear masks if they so choose.

205 Dr. Mark McDonald: He spoke of his first-hand witnessing of the detrimental
206 effects the school closures have had. It's his opinion that the closure of the schools has
207 been the single greatest government failure in response to the global pandemic. There
208 really has been overwhelming damage to the children. He referred to an article from the
209 Journal of American Medical Association about the decreased lifespan in children due to
210 the closure of schools. Also, the German Registry, in January of this year, covering
211 25,000 children who were forced to wear masks for four or more hours per day in or
212 outside of school shared a 70% reportage by their parents of suffering from decreased
213 happiness, depression, irritability, poor concentration, fatigue, and difficulty returning to
214 school. So the masks are actually harming children. Suicide rates have doubled while
215 schools are closed. He stated that the closures and restrictions are based on three
216 fundamental lies and he went over those. He gave statistics and information on
217 treatments.

218 Discussion continued with comments by the various commissioners on the kids
219 returning to school. Commissioner Clark stated he likes the resolution the way it is.
220 Commissioner Waits reiterated what she had pointed out previously and just wanted to
221 represent both sides and not look like we're doing things for political reasons.

222 Alicia Price did comment that she appreciates being given the opportunity to
223 choose and have our freedoms back. She thanked the board for what they are doing.

224 Joey Gilbert (Reno attorney): Joey stated that he's been spearheading the corona
225 virus response since March of 2020. He stated that the World Health Organization has

226 flip-flopped about ten times, first saying that this is spread by human-to-human contact,
227 then saying masks didn't work, then masks do work. The contentiousness is always going
228 to be present and while everyone is entitled to your own opinion, you're not entitled to
229 your own facts. He stated that the death rate of this virus is 16% of 1%. He talked about
230 things the W.H.O. had put out on mask wearing and stated that he is very aware of the
231 Great Barrington Declaration and knows many of the names that are signed on there.
232 They are experts in their fields. It's up to you whether you want to take that out or not,
233 but the facts are the facts. Children aren't spreading this, they're not carriers, and they're
234 the least likely to face serious harm or risk. Like the good doctor said, teachers are safer
235 in the classroom than they are at home. He stated that in every state where the lockdowns
236 were the most stringent and severe the numbers were greater in death rates, infection
237 rates, unemployment rates, suicide rates, and homicide/domestic battery rates. He
238 believes that the Great Barrington Declaration is spot on in that lockdowns did not work
239 and made things much worse. Now that the data is out there the surges were nothing
240 more than what would be seen during the cold and flu season. He talked about death rates
241 having gone down and about why children shouldn't be wearing masks. He stated that
242 these are facts and that the scientific data is in. Joey went on to talk about sports and that
243 the High School Association out of Florida put out that transmission rates are similar with
244 indoor and outdoor sports. Joey concluded by saying that the science and data are spot
245 on. Commissioner Clark made the motion to approve. It was seconded by Commissioner
246 Sparks.

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

248 **Seconded by:** Commissioner Sparks;

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

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252 *****A break was taken from 10:13AM – 10:22AM*****
253
254

255 **4) COMMISSIONERS: For possible action to approve/disapprove the policy 2.16.4 to**
256 **purchase made in America and giving local business first priority.**

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258 Commissioner Sparks made the motion to approve. It was seconded by
259 Commissioner Thomas.

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

261 **Seconded by:** Commissioner Thomas;

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

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265 **6) COMMISSIONERS: For discussion and possible action for the viewing of and the**
266 **Chair's signature on the Inter-local Agreement between Lander County and**
267 **Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority (NNRDA) dated January 1,**
268 **2021 that was previously approved by Resolution 2021-01 on January 28, 2021.**
269

270 D.A. Herrera explained that the reason this was on was because they had
271 previously approved the resolution and the agreement was not in the backup. He felt it
272 necessary that they see what they approved. There was discussion on other businesses
273 coming in and competing with American companies. Commissioner Ancho mentioned
274 that a lot of the mining companies are from out of the country and we don't want to cut
275 off our nose to spite our face. We don't want to get in the habit of buying from out of the
276 country but you can't always find what you need in the country. Commissioner Waits
277 commented that the NNRDA encourages businesses to come to the community. A parent
278 company could be from elsewhere but if they are operating here they become local. They
279 employ people here and are paying taxes and things.

280 Kyla Sharp, the planning coordinator, also stated that they become a local and
281 part of our community. This is part of trying to get those supply companies and
282 manufacturers to come and be part of our local community.

283 Commissioner Waits made the motion to approve the inter-local agreement with
284 NNRDA, with the notation that the resolution was approved previously, and authorize the
285 Chair to sign. It was seconded by Commissioner Thomas.

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

287 **Seconded by:** Commissioner Thomas;

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

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291 7) **COMMISSIONERS: For discussion and possible action to approve/disapprove**
292 **Lander County to pay for Kingston Fire Department physicals, PERS, and also**
293 **PACT.**

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295 Bert Ramos (County Manager): Bert explained that this was on the agenda last
296 time and needed to be brought back as the Kingston Fire Department physicals request.
297 The county has paid in the past and it hadn't been before the Board. What he would like
298 to do is make sure we make a stipulation that they go through our county H.R.
299 Department to get their physicals. If it's not done that way we don't know if they're an
300 employee of Lander County and it gets rejected. It will be retroactive.

301 Commissioner Waits made the motion to approve that Lander County will pay for
302 the Kingston Fire Department physicals, PERS, and PACT, and that the requests are run
303 through the county H.R. Department. It was seconded by Commissioner Clark.

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

305 **Seconded by:** Commissioner Clark;

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

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309 8) **COMMISSIONERS: For discussion and possible action to approve/disapprove the**
310 **purchasing of the Golf Course and/or to continue with the current contract with**
311 **new terms.**

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313 Bert Ramos (County Manager): Bert spoke to our lobbyist and we should have an
314 answer on our Lands Bill within six months. This would include the golf course coming

315 to the county and multiple other lands. The main reason for this is he would like to re-
316 write the contract that we have with the people running the clubhouse. This would
317 alleviate the money changing hands so many times and us getting dinged by the auditors.
318 The idea behind that is that they would receive all proceeds that go to cart fees, storage,
319 passes, everything. The rent would grow significantly and we will negotiate a happy
320 medium in there. They will actually be running a business and if they run it well they will
321 do well, if they don't then they will lose. Even if this passes we do have to get it signed
322 off by the BLM and that will be a verbal agreement, as they don't do written agreements.
323 He wants to continue with the current contract, with new terms, and contingent upon the
324 BLM in agreement.

325 D.A. Herrera: Ted asked that the motion be made with that included regarding
326 being contingent upon oral agreement from the BLM.

327 Public Comment: Kelli Sonderman came forward regarding the timeline of
328 something like this. She has a current contract that is supposed to be March 1st. Bert
329 stated that he's hoping to get it back on the very next agenda. He also said that he would
330 be keeping it as a three year contract. He doesn't feel that they had a fair shake at it with
331 COVID and it would have the 30-day out for both parties.

332 Commissioner Sparks made the motion to approve the current contract with new
333 terms and an oral agreement by the BLM. It was seconded by Commissioner Clark.

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

335 **Seconded by:** Commissioner Clark;

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

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339 9) **COMMISSIONERS: For discussion and possible action to approve/disapprove the**
340 **reorganization of the Lander County Recreation Center which will then include:**

- 341
342 a) Parks
343 b) Golf Course
344 c) Rodeo Grounds
345 d) Race Track
346 e) Moto Cross Track
347 f) Ball Fields
348 g) Skate Park
349 h) Event planning and coordinating
350 i) Civic center

351
352 Bert Ramos (County Manager): Bert stated that he wants to put everything under
353 Parks and Rec. He's not changing the management for departments. His plan is that at the
354 time Miss Rita retires he wants to absorb that position and not add back to that. He wants
355 to have structure in the county so that people know where to go. The reason the rodeo
356 grounds are on there is because last year we gave them money and legally we can't give
357 an advisory board money. This year we could put in a line item in the budget to be
358 approved, in order to provide money. That way they would know they have the money in
359 place for an event and can run with it. This would not change the structure of who is

360 running everything. Donnie is still over the parks, pools, and everything else, Sean is still
361 over the Rec Center. It puts it all in one place and he's speaking a little ahead of schedule
362 because he hasn't done as much research on the library yet as he should, but he wants to
363 put them in the civic center and have one place where people can go schedule their
364 reservations for the parks, find what they need to do for insurance requirements, to
365 schedule a rodeo, the racetrack, they could actually be a race association and be dealt
366 with directly. It would take a little time to get this rolling in the right direction and to
367 have everybody know where to go and how this is working.

368 There was discussion on how this was going to work and who would be in charge
369 of it. Bert stated that it would be under Donnie. He's going to be asking for two positions
370 in his budget. One would be covered through attrition whenever Miss Rita retires and the
371 other might be through attrition at the Rec Center. Bert also mentioned that there might
372 be money to put towards this if we end up doing our own library. It was then opened for
373 public comment. There was no public comment. Commissioner Clark made the motion to
374 approve the reorganization, with the exact layout as the county manager has described. It
375 was seconded by Commissioner Sparks.

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

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381 10) **COMMISSIONERS: Discussion and possible action to approve/disapprove the**
382 **appointment of 2 (two) individual to serve on the Battle Mountain Livestock Event**
383 **Center Advisory Board which currently has 2 (two) vacancies, new terms are from**
384 **July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022, and to consider all of the following applicants to**
385 **include:**

- 386 a) Mike Craig
387 b) Rita Rogers
388

389 Commissioner Sparks made the motion to approve Mike Craig and Rita Rogers to
390 the Livestock Event Center Advisory Board. It was seconded by Commissioner Clark.

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

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396 11) **COMMISSIONERS: For possible action to approve/disapprove the appointment of**
397 **1 (one) individual to serve on the Lander County Board of Equalization which**
398 **currently has 2 (two) vacancies, new terms are from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2024,**
399 **and to consider all of the following applicants to include:**

- 400 a) Kimberlie Buffington
401
402

403 Commissioner Waits made the motion to approve the appointment of Kimberlie
404 Buffington to the Lander County Board of Equalization. It was seconded by
405 Commissioner Sparks.

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

407 **Seconded by:** Commissioner Sparks;

408 **The motion was voted and carried, with Commissioner Clark voting Nay.**
409
410

411 **12) BUILDING DEPARTMENT: For discussion and possible action to**
412 **approve/disapprove any and all recommendations from the Dube Group**
413 **Architecture regarding the Austin Youth Center.**
414

415 Bert Ramos (County Manager): Bert led off with the options available moving
416 forward. There are some possible grants to start looking at and the county can start
417 budgeting for it. Bert, Pete Dube, Patsy, and Anna have been discussing this and wanted
418 to bring it before the commissioners. There are pictures and site plans to look at. The
419 neighbors are willing to donate the property to the county if we're willing to bring it back
420 to its historic value. They have the property next to the youth center, that they have
421 updated to historical Austin and it looks really nice.

422 Commissioner Waits stated that the construction costs have gone way up and that
423 this will be a big commitment.

424 Pete Dube (Dube Group Architecture): Pete was in the meeting via
425 teleconference. Pete explained that he looked at the structure in December of 2019 and
426 did a field investigation. They were hoping they could make some simple
427 recommendations for repairs. They concur with the fire engineer's report that the
428 structure had deteriorated past the point where it could be stabilized. They have been
429 researching grant options for construction funding, as they were directed at a commission
430 meeting about a year ago. They are following the Secretary of the Interior standards
431 because it is an historic building. The project will need two levels of treatment which
432 include restoration and reconstruction. Pete went over what those entail and gave
433 examples regarding what would need to be restored, repaired, and reconstructed. They
434 would essentially be reconstructing the building on a new foundation. This would be
435 based on some really great images that they found at the historical society. There is very
436 great photo documentation of what it looked like in the period of 1870 to 1890. That's
437 important because the period of significance of the Austin historic district is from 1862 to
438 1900. He went over some of the projected costs and grant options moving forward. None
439 of the grants would totally fund the entire project so monies would need to be set aside.
440 Pete stated that the going with the grants could add as much as a year to project and he
441 went over the processes and timelines in detail. He talked about refining the amounts
442 down to be closer to actually what it might cost to have a figure to present on the grant
443 requests. He gave an example of \$500,000 with the county saying they could pay half and
444 then looking for a grant for the balance. Commissioner Waits stated that \$300,000 should
445 have been set aside. Bert Ramos said that it may not have happened. They will need to do
446 some research on those funds. Anna Penola, the county building inspector, also
447 remembered the conversation taking place regarding the \$300,000. Commissioner Sparks

448 stated it was discussed and that we needed more information first. Pete stated that he had
449 heard of the \$300,000 amount and that is what information he had been working forward
450 with. Commissioner Waits motioned to move forward with the grant process from the
451 State Historic Preservation Office and the Governor's Office of Economic Development.
452 It was seconded by Commissioner Clark.

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

454 **Seconded by:** Commissioner Clark;

455 **The motion was voted and carried.**
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458 **13) BUILDING DEPARTMENT: For possible action to approve/disapprove one of the**
459 **following proposals for Lander County Court House fire sprinkler system.**
460

461 1) **Over Head Fire Protection in the amount not to exceed**
462 **\$1,115.00 annually. (Recommended by Building Department and**
463 **Supported by County Manager)**

464 2) **Delta in the amount not to exceed \$5,710.00 annually.**
465

466 After some discussion this item was tabled for the re-wording to be added as a
467 two-year contract and no automatic renewal.
468
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470 **14) BUILDING DEPARTMENT: For possible action to approve/disapprove one of the**
471 **following proposals for the Lander County Recreation Center fire sprinkler system.**
472

473 1) **Over Head Fire Protection in the amount not to exceed \$1,030.00**
474 **annually. (Recommended by Building Department and Supported**
475 **by County Manager)**

476 2) **Delta in the amount not to exceed \$3,750.00 annually.**
477

478 This item was also tabled for the re-wording to be added as a two-year contract
479 and no automatic renewal.
480
481

482 **15) WOOD ROGERS: Master Plan Update from Wood Rogers. Discussion and possible**
483 **action on how to proceed based on Wood Rogers' recommendations and Lander**
484 **County's existing and proposed goals concerning the Master Plan.**
485

486 Kyla Sharp, the planning coordinator, ran the PowerPoint for Derek Kirkland,
487 with Wood Rogers. Derek went over the vision for Lander County. He wanted to let
488 everyone know where things are at and where they're headed. They are looking for some
489 feedback on policy moving forward. Derek's first slide showed public
490 facilities/services/recreation, conservation/natural resources, housing, land use, and
491 economic development as part of the master plan update. The next slide covered some of
492 the structure changes that are being looked at between the old and the new plans. It would

493
494 reduce some of the chapters and make it easier to read. The implementation plan is to
495 kind of organize the goals and policies and try to identify some implementation strategies
496 going forward. Derek mentioned some of what they have worked on with UNR on
497 population and income trends. He continued going over the executive summary portion
498 of the plan and then moved through the various sections of the plan. The land use section
499 would consolidate land use standards into table format, create separate maps of land
500 use/masterplan designations and zoning designations and shift development standards to
501 zoning codes.

502 After Derek finished his presentation he explained the next steps of where we're
503 at right now. This included updating policies to support new goals, land use map updates,
504 a draft plan, final plan, and zoning code updates. They are hoping to be done with the
505 draft by the end of March.

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508 **16) NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION: For possible action to**
509 **approve/disapprove the annual work program from Nevada Department of**
510 **Transportation (NDOT) and also to approve or amend the top two project priorities**
511 **for Lander County.**

512
513 Lee Bonner, Boyd Ratliff, and Cole Mortensen, with NDOT were on the phone.
514 There was discussion on what items should be in what order of priority from the priority
515 list that was provided in the item backup. Cole explained that this is part of the annual
516 process each year. Some items mentioned were better signage to slow traffic down when
517 coming over the overpass on Highway 305, and something to be done to help with people
518 not stopping at the 4-way on Front St. There was discussion on why the rest areas weren't
519 open and it appears to be a problem with the water systems. They may be open by this
520 summer. There was talk on the sound wall by Gold Creek. Cole mentioned that other than
521 the top two on the list the others weren't in any order of priority. Bert mentioned that the
522 county was going to be hanging up a red blinking light at the 4-way stop, similar to what
523 was there in the past. Commissioner Waits stated that Austin will be taking care of the
524 Austin Airport signage, listed as item B. The commissioners asked for a little background
525 on item K, which is a southern bypass from 305 to I-80. They would like more
526 information on that. Lee Bonner stated that is to help with the amount of mining trucks
527 coming up 305. The idea was to construct a bypass on the southern side so that mining
528 trucks didn't have to go through town. Bert Ramos spoke on some ideas regarding this
529 but that there has never been a distinct map showing what it would be. After a bit more
530 discussion Commissioner Sparks made the motion to move item J (Sound Walls) into the
531 #1 position and to keep #2 as is. It was seconded by Commissioner Clark.

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

533 **Seconded by:** Commissioner Clark;

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

535 Commissioner Waits made the motion to accept the fiscal year 2021 annual work
536 program by the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT). It was seconded by
537 Commissioner Sparks.

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

17) **NEVADA OUTDOOR SCHOOLS: For possible action to approve/disapprove a grant request in the amount not to exceed \$5,000 to Nevada Outdoor Schools to support travel and program supplies for classroom lessons and field trips provided to Lander County Students.**

Bert Ramos (County Manager): Bert explained that Kaitlyn had explained to Melanie ahead of time that this would need to be brought back during budget times and that she is here presenting today with that understanding.

Melanie Erquiaga (Nevada Outdoor Schools): Melanie introduced herself as the executive director and Brandon Allen, their education director. She explained that they are based out of Winnemucca, have been there for almost nineteen years and have an additional office in Elko. Their mission is to inspire exploration of the natural world, responsible stewardship of our habitat and dedication to community. They have youth education and skills courses, including hunter safety. The students do community service projects, which includes a summer camp service project. They have a really strong outdoor ethics program that they take to events around the area. Melanie highlighted the school-based programs that they have here in Lander County. Their watershed class is one of their flagship programs that they've been doing a long time. It's very well-planned and the teachers really like it. She went over the benefits of learning outside and these benefits are observed in all students. Outdoor education also enhances indoor education.

They are a non-profit organization and all lessons are up to Nevada academic state standards. They are taught by trained Americorps naturalists. They do all background checks and are insured. Melanie went over the funding that they have in place and they are supported well by mining entities in the community, and the AmeriCorps federal grant. She works year round on securing funding for the program. They have been able to be back in the classrooms a little more, which is exciting. The presentation ended with a short discussion and thanks to Melanie for the program for the children.

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

Commissioner Sparks asked if they wanted to put on an item about the organization they had been talking about at a previous time. It is the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (CSPOA).

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

583 **ADJOURNMENT**

584
585 There being no further business before the Commission at this time, Commissioner Clark moved
586 to adjourn the regular session of February 25, 2021. Seconded by Commissioner Sparks, the
587 motion was voted and carried. **ADJOURNED.**

588
589 **Meeting was adjourned at 12:53 p.m.**



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

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598 **ATTEST:** 
599 **LANDER COUNTY CLERK**

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