



**Board of Mineral County Commissioners**

Hawthorne, Nevada

February 19, 2020

The Honorable Board of Mineral County Commissioners met this day in a regular session with the following people present:

Honorable Chris Hegg	Chairman
Honorable Christine Hoferer	Vice-Chairman
Honorable Garth Price	Member
Honorable Christopher Nepper	Clerk-Treasurer
Honorable Sean Rowe	District Attorney

**Absent:** Honorable Chris Hegg Chairman  
Honorable Sean Rowe District Attorney

**1. Pledge of Allegiance and Safety Message**

Pledge Allegiance was led by Commissioner Price

No Safety Message provided

**2. Approval of Agenda/Necessary Changes**

Item 6 moved to March 4, 2020

Patrick Hughes grant update moved to March 4, 2020

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Hoferer to approve the agenda with the changes made. A vote of the Board disclosed the following:

<b>Ayes:</b>	Commissioner Hoferer Commissioner Price
<b>Nays:</b>	None
<b>Abstain:</b>	None
<b>Absent:</b>	Commissioner Hegg

Motion carried and so ordered

Public Comment: None

**3. Accounts Payable Vouchers, Credit Card Approval Form Requests, Capital Outlay Purchase Orders and Auditor’s Cash Report by Fund** presented for review, discussion and possible action.

The Recorder-Auditor’s Office presented the vouchers for review.

Commissioner Hoferer asked Deputy Recorder-Auditor Hillary Pellet to check with the Assessor regarding money coming from SOC.

The Board requested an agenda item for post-accident testing for March 4, 2020.

**4. Financial Horizon Credit Union Accounts Report** – presented for review, discussion and possible action.

The Credit Union report was presented for review.

**5. Reports and Correspondence - None**

**6. Minutes of February 5, 2020** – For review and possible action.

Item moved to March 4, 2020

**7. Kenneth Collum** – For consideration and possible action relative to the BLM program updates. Mr. Collum provided updates he advised that Luning Solar wanted to expand with 400 new acres of panels and battery storage and five grazing allotments could be impacted with the Navy expansion

Richard Niedzwiecki – asked how many acres would BLM lose with the expansion and if there was going to be compensation.

Mr. Collum advised it would be about 600,000 but 280,000 would remain open for use; the Navy has a process to figure the compensation.

8. **Cindy Nixon, Recorder-Auditor** – For consideration and possible action relative to the designation of the auditing firm of Arrighi & Blake, LLC for Mineral County in accordance with NRS 354.624 for fiscal year ending 2021.

Ms. Nixon and Joan Sciarani-Blake were present to provide information on the contract.

Ms. Blake advised the price increase was due to the new system.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Hoferer to approve the contract with Arrighi & Blake, LLC not to exceed \$65,000. A vote of the Board disclosed the following:

<b>Ayes:</b>	Commissioner Hoferer Commissioner Price
<b>Nays:</b>	None
<b>Abstain:</b>	None
<b>Absent:</b>	Commissioner Hegg

Motion carried and so ordered

Public Comment: Hawthorne Utilities Director Larry Grant asked why there was a change in the price for their audit.

Ms. Blake advised that it depended on the grant, but she would check to see what was billed.

9. **Quarterly Status Reports for Mineral County Sponsored Grants** – For consideration and possible action relative to the status of current/open grant funded projects presented to the Board, by the following grant project managers (as applicable).
- **Care and Share** – Commissioner Hoferer advised that she had signed two grants that had been approved by the Board. Senior Services Direct Cherrie George advised the ADSD grant was \$269,188 a decrease from prior funding; she has had some problems with filing grant applications because of the new software; she applied for Social Services Grants and Transportation grant. Discussion ensued regarding the center's vehicles.
  - **CAHS** – Carla Hemmer advised they had the NHD grant, she stated that it had decreased because allocations were now being based on population.
  - **District Attorney** – Absent
  - **Emergency Management** - Absent
  - **Fire Department** – Absent
  - **Hawthorne Utilities** - Hawthorne Utilities Director Larry Grant advised they were on the final payment for the Regional Water Plan; Mina well project was done; Wetlands project was done; State NDEP wants them to host a mercury collection grant and they now had the vocational student grant;
  - **Justice Court** – Absent
  - **Library** - Absent
  - **Museum** – Absent
  - **Parks & Recreation** – Park & Recreation Coordinator Christina Boyles advised they were scheduled to open bids at 11:00 AM on March 4, 2020; she was going to open the pool on June 1, 2020.
  - **Public Works/Road/Airport** – Public Works Director Eric Hamrey advised they had the RAC Grants; Airport Taxiway grant; State Park grant; he was going to check on the sidewalk project and the TAP Grants.
  - **Sheriff's Office** – Sheriff Randy Adams advised they had the Pool Pact grant for \$42,000; the Medical Emergency Management Grant; the OCJ Grant for the radios, the check to reimburse

PILT was in the mail; Mobile Fingerprint machine reimbursement was in; E911 mapping was still not 100%

- **Cooperative Extension** – Stacie Emm advised they were closing out the Healthy Community Coalition grant; Earth day was going to be April 22, 2020 and the Community Clean up April 17-18, 2020; they have been told they would be receiving the HCC grant for next year; they changed internet services to CC Communications.

Public comment: Richard Niedzwiecki asked if he was going to put something in the paper for the collection of Mercury.

Mr. Grant advised that State NDEP would be handling everything.

10. **Eric Hamrey, Public Works Director** – For consideration and possible action relative to Memorandum of Agreement with Mineral County Sportsmen’s Club.

Eric Hamrey and Rob Mathias were in attendance. Mr. Hamrey advised the MOU had been seen by District Attorney Sean Rowe; there was a change to the MOU where it says Services, #1 should say see attached; the MOU was good for three years. He advised the outhouses had been removed, he was planning on putting in for a grant for block restrooms.

Mr. Mathias advised they had an agreement with Allied Sanitation for the porta potties.

Commissioner Hoferer advised Mr. Hamrey to have a separate line item put in the budget for their extra costs for the park.

Mr. Mathias advised the Big Horn Sheep statue for the Hawthorne Sign area was in his garage.

Commissioner Price stated that the lighting on the sign needed to be worked on.

The Board asked Mr. Hamrey to look into who owned the Hawthorne Sign.

Mr. Mathias advised that on March 5, 2020 the Walker Basin Conservancy was having a meeting and the Sportsman Club was providing sandwiches.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Hoferer to accept the Memorandum of Agreement of agreement with the Sportsmen’s Club and Mineral County and the adjustment to be made on the contract to show three years. A vote of the Board disclosed the following:

<b>Ayes:</b>	Commissioner Hoferer Commissioner Price
<b>Nays:</b>	None
<b>Abstain:</b>	None
<b>Absent:</b>	Commissioner Hegg

Motion carried and so ordered

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Hoferer advised Mr. Hamrey to give a copy of the MOU to the Clerk-Treasurer’s office after the adjustments had been made and then record it if he wanted to.

11. **Courtney Oberhansli, Librarian** – For consideration and possible action relative to approval of submission by Mineral County Library to the Nevada Complete Count Committee Partnership Support Grant Program for two computers to be used by the community for filling out census forms.

Commissioner Hoferer advised Ms. Oberhansli applied for a grant where the Library would receive two computers for the public to use to fill out the Census information; after the Census is over the Library would get to keep the computers.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Hoferer to give forgiveness for the submission of a grant for two computers for the Nevada Complete Count Committee Partnership Support Grant Program. A vote of the Board disclosed the

following:

**Ayes:** Commissioner Hoferer  
Commissioner Price  
**Nays:** None  
**Abstain:** None  
**Absent:** Commissioner Hegg

Motion carried and so ordered

Public Comment: None

12. **Bret Towe** – For consideration and possible action relative to approval to purchasing Virtu email encryption product under the United We Stand grant.

Clerk-Treasurer Chris Nepper advised the Board that Mr. Towe was out; he stated it was for HIPA compliance and for encrypted emails; the grant was through the Local Emergency Planning Commission. The Board advised placing on the agenda in two weeks.

13. **Gloria Lopez** – For consideration and possible action relative to Resolution for the 70<sup>th</sup> Armed Forces Celebration.

Resolution 20-005 was read by Clerk-Treasurer Chris Nepper regarding services for the Armed Forces Celebration.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Hoferer to accept resolution 20-005. A vote of the Board disclosed the following:

**Ayes:** Commissioner Hoferer  
Commissioner Price  
**Nays:** None  
**Abstain:** None  
**Absent:** Commissioner Hegg

Motion carried and so ordered

Public Comment:

Dana Tommila asked if camping and vendors could be at both parks.

Glenn Bunch advised he had not received the DOT permit for the closure of E St. for the parade.

Gloria Lopez asked if they could use Patriots Plaza.

The Board wanted to revise the resolution for clarification

Commissioner Price revisited his motion.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Hoferer to accept resolution 20-005 with the review of the District Attorney and corrections to be made accordingly with Public Works Director Eric Hamrey and Gloria Lopez. A vote of the Board disclosed the following:

**Ayes:** Commissioner Hoferer  
Commissioner Price  
**Nays:** None  
**Abstain:** None  
**Absent:** Commissioner Hegg

Motion carried and so ordered

14. **Mike Mitchell** – For consideration and possible action relative to petition for sale 101 Harrison street parcel 001-211-15.

Mike Mitchell was present.

Clerk-Treasurer Chris Nepper advised the Board the parcel was trust property.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Hoferer to allow the sale of 101 Harrison Street parcel 001-211-15.

A vote of the Board disclosed the following:

**Ayes:** Commissioner Hoferer  
Commissioner Price  
**Nays:** None  
**Abstain:** None  
**Absent:** Commissioner Hegg

Motion carried and so ordered

Public Comment: None

- 15. Honorable Garth Price** – For consideration and possible action relative to allowing Walker Basin Conservancy free use of the Convention Center/Marquee on March 5, 2020, sponsored by Mineral County Commissioners to waive the Liquor License application.

Commissioner Price advised the Walker Basin Conservancy was having a joint meeting with other state and community groups on an update for the restoration work that had been done; He was asking for free use of the Convention Center, Marquee and to waive the Liquor License; District Attorney Sean Rowe advised him to do this so the Commissioners did not have to get a Liquor License for a county building.

Glenn Bunch advised the Walker Lake Working Group and the US Fish and Wildlife was going to attend; the US Fish and Wildlife had a Big Fish that is air inflated trout that will be set up outside for the kids; Mr. Bunch thinks that the Working Group working with the Conservancy has allowed more sales of water rights. The Conservancy has three Hot houses where they grow water efficient plants that is then planted; they are showing the farmers there are crops that can be grown that uses less water with more of a money return.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Hoferer to approve the use of the Convention Center, Marquee and to waive the Liquor License for the Walker Basin Conservancy event on March 5, 2020. A vote of the Board disclosed the following:

**Ayes:** Commissioner Hoferer  
Commissioner Price  
**Nays:** None  
**Abstain:** None  
**Absent:** Commissioner Hegg

Motion carried and so ordered

Public Comment: None

- 16.** For consideration and possible action relative to having Public Works and Hawthorne Utilities address road condition issues on Connelly Street.

Commissioner Price stated the road was a mess and there had been a lot of complaints and he wanted it to be fixed.

Hawthorne Utilities Director Larry Grant said they had cut the road to do a repair, so they would do the road repair. Discussion ensued regarding road repairs.

Commissioner Hoferer advised Public Works Director Eric Hamrey to price a roller for compacting and bring it to the Board.

17. For consideration and possible action relative to Mineral County input and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) projects.

Commissioner Hoferer advised this was discussed at the last meeting with WNDD; the Board prioritized the projects that was going to WNDD.

1. Potable Water storage supply
2. Industrial Property Utilities
3. Waste Water Reuse
4. Sidewalks and curbs and gutters

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Hoferer to approve the prioritization of the WNDD projects as listed by Commissioner Hoferer. A vote of the Board disclosed the following:

**Ayes:** Commissioner Hoferer  
Commissioner Price  
**Nays:** None  
**Abstain:** None  
**Absent:** Commissioner Hegg

Motion carried and so ordered

Public Comment: None

18. For consideration and possible action relative to update for supporting the Unites States 2020 Census.

The Board requested to place back on the agenda on March 4, 2020

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Hoferer to suspend the Board of Commissioners pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 241.015(2)(b)(2) to receive information from legal counsel relative to potential or threatened litigation against Mineral County. A vote of the Board disclosed the following:

**Ayes:** Commissioner Hoferer  
Commissioner Price  
**Nays:** None  
**Abstain:** None  
**Absent:** Commissioner Hegg

Motion carried and so ordered

Public Comment: None

19. **Closed Session** – Pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 241.015(2)(b)(2) to receive information from legal counsel relative to potential or threatened litigation against Mineral County.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY** Commissioner Price and seconded by Commissioner Hoferer to reconvene the Board of Commissioners. A vote of the Board disclosed the following:

**Ayes:** Commissioner Hoferer  
Commissioner Price  
**Nays:** None  
**Abstain:** None  
**Absent:** Commissioner Hegg

Motion carried and so ordered

Public Comment: None

20. **Open Session** – Discussion and possible action relative to existing/pending litigation involving potential or threatened litigation against Mineral County. Nothing to report at this time.

**Board of Highway Commissioners**

**Public Comment:**

**Commissioner Recognition** – Commissioner Hoferer asked if she could send out a memorandum from the Board regarding political activities.


Commissioner Hoferer stated she would like would like to put the two employees from the Records Office on the agenda for recognition, the girls in that office and the Clerk’s Office are basically creating the books for the county. She is nervous about budget time.

Public Works Director Eric Hamrey advised his department was nominated for the Cashman Service Award; He and Dan McPeake would be going to Las Vegas for a luncheon; a gentleman in Reno from the Department of Building and Industry nominated them.

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting of the Board adjourned until Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 9:00 AM.

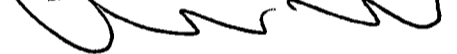
A verbatim recording of this meeting has been prepared and by reference becomes a part thereof.

**Approved:** Board of County Commissioners

By:   
Christine Hoferer, Vice Chairman

Date: 3-4-20

**Attest:**

  
Christopher Nepper, Clerk of the Board

Mineral County is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).