

# Minutes from the March 03, 2020 HIGHWAY Commission Meeting

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March 03, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Esmeralda County Courthouse

Commission Chambers

233 Crook Ave., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Goldfield, Nevada

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL.**

Ralph Keyes -	Chairman
Delon "De" Winsor -	Vice-Chairman
Timothy Hipp -	Commissioner
Robert Glennen -	District Attorney
LaCinda Elgan -	Clerk of the Board

- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT.** (Discussion only. Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item. It must be placed on an agenda, at a later meeting, for action.)  
None.

Sharon Reid came up and said the road at Lida and Hutchins goes around Ron Turner's scrap pile. She wanted to know how that can be moved and her road completed. It is right in the middle of Fifth Avenue. He is no longer living there because of an injury. Sharon Artlip verified that his stuff is directly in the middle of the road.

Deven Thackeray suggested they identify the right-of-way and where his property is in the county right-of-way and then get with our county district attorney in regards to the best way to proceed from here.

**3. \*APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES.**

Commissioner Hipp read road batch number one as \$7,972.37 and a grand total of \$7.972.37. Commissioner Winsor made the motion to approve the expenditures. Commissioner Hipp seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

- 4. \*DISCUSSION/DECISION/APPROVAL:** Rejected Vendor Bills from Auditor's Office.  
None.

- 5. \*APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE** February 18, 2020 meeting of the Esmeralda County Board of Highway Commission.

Commissioner Winsor made the motion to approve the minutes from the February 18, 2020 meeting of the Esmeralda County Board of Highway Commission. Commissioner Hipp seconded the motion. All in favor: Motion carried.

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### **6. UPDATE OF CURRENT AND FUTURE MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT SUPERVISORS.** (This is only an update. No decisions will be made.)

Commissioner Keyes stated there was a town all meeting in Fish Lake Valley last Thursday regarding the U.S. Forest Service doing some maintenance work up in the White Mountains in the forest and they may want to make some changes but that will come later.

Commissioner Keyes said he had a brief meeting with a gentleman with the loneer project about the roads going to and through the project and he had shown him a map of potential changes and they were just preliminary. They would also like to have some engineering studies done from highway 264 up to that location done and they will bring that to us at a later date.

### **7. UPDATE OF ESMERALDA COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT CURRENT AND FUTURE PROJECTS.** (This is only an update. No decisions will be made.)

#### ESMERALDA COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT UPDATE

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

1. Update: Goldfield – The crew in Goldfield is continuing with road repair here in town, also they've been out to the new pit, preparing a pad for our equipment to be moved over on site. We have a blade out on Pole Line Road and will grade Alkali Road, also.
2. Update: Silver Peak – The crew is grading Paymaster Road, with the addition of a new hire grading outlying area roads is a good choice to get acclimated to his equipment and surrounding areas. Also, they will be driving the entire Silver Peak district to get the new operator familiar with his area. The Silver Peak crew has also started to clean the shop and yard.
3. Update: Fish Lake Valley (FLV) – The crew in FLV is grading and watering the north end of FLV. Once done, they will transition to the outlying roads in our district. Also, they have started weed abatement along valley roads.
4. Both new hires have successfully obtained their Class A CDLs. Two other employees have obtained their CDL permits, and are preparing for the test. We now have 6 full-time CDL licensed drivers.
5. Eddie Pratt has given verbal notification that he is retiring in April. Even though Mr. Pratt is retiring and hopefully getting to enjoy his golden years, it will be a great loss to the county. How do you replace someone with sterling morals and ethic? He is without a doubt one of the top hands in the Road Department and will be sorely missed.

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6. Silver Peak Road Project update (Federal Lands Access Program-FLAP)- Herback Engineering is continuing with dirt work along the sides of the road and surface. They are shaping, compacting, and getting sub-grading done. They have started hauling material using scrapers from our Paymaster Pit. Commissioner Windsor noted a soft, uncompacted section of road. I drove this section and contacted the federal inspector on site. He said they were already on it and it would be repaired and compacted to specs. I also mentioned the roads along the bypass being rough. He said he would talk with the contractor.
7. On the 21<sup>st</sup> of February, we had the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP), Bureau of Sustainable Materials Management, Program Development Supervisor, Michael Ruffner, out to our landfill to observe incoming household waste to determine if we bring in enough household hazardous waste to qualify for a grant to pay to separate and collect paint, pesticides, and household mercury. By collecting those items, it keeps them from contaminating our water system. They inspected town roll-offs and town trash brought in throughout the day. They will report back at a later date with their findings. Also, we are moving forward with extending the landfill within our permitted area. We are getting ready to set corner posts and H-posts and start fencing.
8. Blue Room at the Landfill- We have had a “blue room” at the landfill now for as long as I have been here and longer. As you know, an employee has to have restroom access. As of today, we pay \$155 a month. Granted, 15 years ago, it wasn’t that much, but \$155 a month is today’s price. So, I’m looking into a precast restroom, much like the one at the Fish Lake Valley Hot Box. This system requires no water, not leach line and, I believe, will not require any special permit to install. You simply pump it out, when needed. With the amount of seat time generated by one or two employees, it quite possibly could last a couple of years between pumpings. The structure is sharp looking and would be an upgrade on the infrastructure at the landfill. Susan has found a grant for this with a 45% match from the county. Expect this to be on a future agenda.
9. Eastern White Mountain Road Management Project Meeting (Red Rock Mine) – There was a Town Hall meeting that I requested the Forest Service to do after meeting with the Forest Service and an OHV group from California in my previous report. On February 27<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 pm, we had a town hall meeting in Fish Lake Valley (FLV) concerning the possible closing of a county road in the Red Rock Mine area, and to re-designate other roads, making them OHV trails. Todd Ellsworth and Phillip Desenze from the White Mountain Ranger Station were present. Also, Commissioner Keyes, myself and FLV residents were in attendance. According to the Forest Service Representatives, the reason they want to decommission that road is because of mercury-laden contaminated soil. There is a road on the other side of the mine that will still allow vehicles to access the area. They also propose a 1.89 section of road that would go from 1 mile above the back of Red Rock and connects to Upper Trail Canyon below the pond to be designated as an ATV Class II trail. It is important to note that the proposed trail, as it is, is currently

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on our maps as a trail for Jeeps. I would like the County Commission to know that I pointed these items out to them: 1) Everything proposed by the Forest Service is in Nevada. 2) is in Esmeralda County and 3) are previously maintained RS 2477 roads. I showed them historical maps which showed the roads in question dating back to 1968. As you know, any roads before October 21, 1976 on a map of Esmeralda County makes them RS2477 historical roads belonging to Esmeralda County. They also mentioned that there is a concern about the maintenance of the roads in that area. I explained that those roads are minimally maintained roads. I assured them that we are able to maintain at a higher standard, if we had the funds. My suggestion to the County Commissioners, is: 1) Have the DA prepare a response letter asserting our rights for these roads within the two weeks that the Forest Service has given for a response, 2) Comply with all NRS regulations 403.430 in regards to re-designating or abandoning any roads in Esmeralda County. 3) Allow the decommission of the road in front of Red Rock Mine only and no other recommended road closures and 4) Allow 1.89 miles of the road that goes from the back side of the Red Rock Mine to Upper Trail Canyon to be designated as an OHV Jeep trail, as it is currently on our maps.

10. Goldpoint Meeting: There was a town hall meeting in Goldpoint that was attended by myself, Commissioner Keyes, Commissioner Winsor and Ruth Lee. The topics of this meeting was the widths of the roads, placing of the town drop box site for trash and wanting to keep the historic aesthetics of their historic town. The residents agreed that they wanted the road widths to be 40' in and around the town and outlying areas. Also, they agreed that they want the trash drop box to be established on the lot owned by the county just outside the town.

11. Update on RS2477 roads: I had a long discussion with Susan Dudley. She mentioned that she and Carl Shrider had worked very hard to get 3,244 miles of roads in Esmeralda County designated (already) as RS2477. What I am now recommending is that we concentrate on getting Title V Right of Ways on them, which does not guarantee getting them certified as public or centerline tax increases, but makes us *eligible* for that, and, even if we do not get the Title V ROW, it will not take away our rights to maintain the roads for public use. Commissioner Keyes stated that they are asserting their federal rules – that doesn't mesh with our NRS's.

8. **PUBLIC COMMENT.** (Discussion only. Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item. It must be placed on an agenda, at a later meeting for action.)  
None.

9. **\*ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Hipp made the motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Winsor seconded the motion. All in favor: Motion carried.