

# Minutes from the April 21, 2020 Special Commission Meeting

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April 21, 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.

Delon "De" Winsor -	Chairman - Remote
Timothy Hipp -	Vice-Chairman - Remote
Ralph Keyes -	Commissioner - Remote
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.)

Commissioner Hipp wanted to talk about the decision that was made at the last BOCC meeting; keeping as many people out of the courthouse as possible, except for the Sheriff's Department. He is hearing that it is business as usual in the courthouse and people are going in and out of the courthouse as usual. He has some serious issues with this and he thinks there is a huge liability issue. He said if you are an elected official and you are telling your employees they have to work their regular shift is a huge liability issue. He said people should be trying to work at home as much as possible. We are creating a huge risk. Commissioner Hipp mentioned that there are cases now in the courthouse and jail in Nye County and the courthouse is completely shut down for two weeks for cleaning.

LaCinda stated that she is just speaking for her office, but she has things that have to happen by statute and she cannot just shut her office down. She said the Governor did say for people to stay at home but he did not shut the county government down. She does not have the leeway, by statute to have people stay home. She has people coming in for training, if someone has to file a petition, she has to let that person in and that is done by appointment only. She has taxes that are due, elections, etc.

Bob Glennen stated that certain things, because of statutes, are going to be essential based on the statutory requirements. Some duties of the Clerk/Treasurer, Auditor/Recorder, and himself.

Commissioner Winsor said that at the last meeting they did state that they would have the public not come in but still have courthouse essential county business employees working. He said LaCinda was going to try to have people coming in to do the elections try to do it across the street at the community center. Michelle said the primary election was going to be mail only. LaCinda said the training that is required beforehand and all of the proofs, etc.; because there is no wi-fi at the community center, that would be a disaster.

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Commissioner Hipp said he didn't know how many other courthouses had all of the services and the Sheriff's Department and the inmates all in the exact same building so he thinks this is a very special situation. He thinks we should take additional precautions that maybe other counties aren't to ensure that it's not infected. He said he called the governor's office yesterday and he told them the situation and asked for clarification and he has not yet heard back from them. He said when the meeting is over, he will call back again but the second this courthouse is infected everything is going to stop immediately, so why in the world are we the risks now.

LaCinda stated they have an extra courthouse in Pahrump and so do not have to stop government in Nye County.

The other thing Commissioner Hipp said was that this meeting required a computer, and the libraries are closed. He said he has gotten complaints because you have to register for this meeting. He thinks this is a violation of open meeting law. Michelle said she will look into Zoom in the future.

Michelle read chat statements from Vera, Ken Elgan and Ruth. She said her office and Ruth's office cannot close, either, as they have to be open and have things that also have to be done. Vera has to get vendor bills and payroll done and Ruth is working with big deadlines and Devnet reports that are due to the State.

Ken Elgan wanted to get a legal opinion on whether commissioners are "public" and whether they can discuss during public comment. He also said the resolution did not shut down the courthouse to the employees, only to the public.

Patty Huber Beth said Deven Thackeray was listening to the meeting through her speakers and wanted everyone to know that he agreed with Commissioner Hipp about this meeting violating open meeting law. D.A. Robert Glennen said if we have one person stating they cannot get into the meeting then we have a problem. He said when he came into the courthouse for the meeting he asked at the door, and not one person asked or demanded to be let into the meeting. Michelle said if anyone had called in, we could have connected them as well.

Danielle Johnson wanted to let everyone know that there are 29 positive cases of COVID-19 in Nye County: 23 in Pahrump, 4 in Tonopah, 1 in Amargosa and 1 in Beatty. Goldfield still has none.

Commissioner Keyes asked if there was any public on this call. Michelle did a roll call of everyone on the call. Michelle said she believes the complaint is that you have to register. The only way to register is to have internet. Michelle said she will make sure the meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> is just a call-in meeting.

Commissioner Keyes asked that we move on to item number 3.

Patty Huber-Beth was chatting with Michelle, asking about the public coming in the courthouse and Michelle let her know that there were very few people actually coming in to the courthouse to pay a bill (and those people are actually just coming to the door).

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

Commissioner Keyes made the motion to approve the expenditures as follows:

#### ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

General Batch 1:	\$93,253.61	
General Batch 2:	\$54,153.90	
Utilities Batch 1:	\$745.07	
State Trans/Reprint:	\$14,955.04	Approved/Replaced Check: \$135.00
St. Trans/School Ck:	\$280,539.27	
Payroll:	\$72,047.25	
TOTAL COUNTY:	\$515,694.14	

#### ROAD:

Road Batch 1:	\$326,387.23	
Road Batch 2:	\$747.40	
Utilities Batch 2:	\$43.35	
Roll-Off App. 04/07:		\$20,000.00
TOTAL ROAD:	327,177.98	
TOTAL:	\$842,872.12	

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

### 4. **\*ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Keyes made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hipp seconded the motion. All in favor: Motion carried.