

Minutes from the May 05, 2020 Commission Meeting

May 05, 2020
10:00 a.m.
Esmeralda County Courthouse
Commission Chambers
233 Crook Ave., 2nd Floor
Goldfield, Nevada

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL.

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

From the public we have Susan Dudley and Patricia Brownfield on the phone.

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.

3. *RECESS TO ESMERALDA COUNTY BOARD OF HIGHWAY COMMISSION:

Commissioner Keyes made the motion to recess to the Board of Highway Commission. Commissioner Hipp seconded the motion. All in favor: Motion carried.

BTO

4. *APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES.

Batch 1:	\$363,304.23	
Batch 2:	\$10,319.96	
Payroll:	\$76,558.99	(03/29-04/11/2020)
TOTAL:	\$450,183.18	(County)

Commissioner Keyes made the motion to approve the expenditures in the above amounts. Commissioner Hipp seconded the motion. All in favor: Motion carried.

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

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6. ***APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE** April 21, 2020 meeting of the Esmeralda County Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Keyes made the motion to approve the minutes from the April 21, 2020 meeting of the Esmeralda County Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Hipp seconded the motion. All in favor: Motion carried.

7. ***FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION/DECISION:** Approve and sign letter of correction that is to be sent to the Department of Taxation. (Vera Boyer and LaCinda Elgan)

Vera was on the call. LaCinda talked to Kelly Langley about this and told her they would be talking about this today. As long as the minutes reflect that we talked about this it will be fine.

Commissioner Winsor states he read it. Commissioner Keyes stated he read and approves it. Commissioner Hipp stated he read it.

Commissioner Keyes made the motion to approve and sign the letter of correction that will be sent to the Department of Taxation. Commissioner Hipp seconded the motion. All in favor: Motion carried. LaCinda asked if we want to have Vera sign it with the approval of the Commissioners and attach the minutes and state that it was approved via teleconference.

Commissioner Hipp suggested moving to item 11 so Patty Brownfield can get on her way.

11. ***FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION/DECISION:** Commissioner signature on Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) grant application before sending to State Emergency Response Committee (SERC). This is a grant requesting dollars to purchase operations, training and equipment for the year ending 2021. (Patricia Brownfield)

Patty said this just needs signatures. She said no one applied for any equipment so this is only for operations supplies and clerical. It is for \$4,000.

Commissioner Keyes made the motion to approve and sign the application to LEPC grant application for sending to the State Emergency Response Committee for the grant dollars for operations for Fiscal year ending 2021. Commissioner Hipp seconded the motion. All in favor: Motion carried.

8. ***FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION/DECISION:** Discussion/Decision and Approval of Esmeralda County Sheriff's Office employees to be paid hazard pay retro from March 17, 2020 to TBD. To be paid out of the Sheriff's budget. (Sheriff Ken Elgan)

Sheriff Elgan stated that if he remembered correctly, all of the commissioners were in agreement on this. The only thing that was unknown was the amount. He is open for discussion.

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Commissioner Keyes said he discussed this with the Sheriff and asked Vera Boyer where the Sheriff's budget stands, as far as payroll is concerned. He said he would like to pay the deputies and staff a little better pay because of the emergency situation. He asked Vera what was left in the Sheriff's budget as far as payroll is concerned through the end of this fiscal year. Vera said she has not run reports for this but she can really quick.

Ralph said they are our front line and the gatekeepers in the courthouse and are putting themselves at risk more than the regular employees have and he would consider it hazard pay because of that situation. He is not sure how much we can afford. He said he knows that next year we are probably going to have to make some cuts because of the shortfall of revenues from the state. He talked to Dan McArthur and he felt that Esmeralda County would probably fair quite well with the CTX and road tax money and we probably wouldn't be affected as greatly as some of the other counties but he didn't have exact numbers, so our fund balance seems to be in pretty good shape so he thinks we could afford to pay hazard pay to the Sheriff Department possibly through the end of this fiscal year, so though June 30. So, it is just a matter of how much. He said with Vera's input we can make an informed decision.

Vera said if we are talking about the Sheriff's personnel, she wanted to talk about ambulance personnel, as well as firefighter personnel. Commissioner Keyes said we are talking about the Sheriff's Department. LaCinda also said the agenda item is regarding the Sheriff's Department. She suggested Vera put it on the next agenda.

Commissioner Hipp spoke up and wanted to talk about amounts. He said he went online and look at military and it looks the lowest is 15% and 45% is the highest, depending on the severity.

Vera said that Tyler is not allowing her to get numbers at this time.

Commissioner Hipp said when we had the meeting and talked about reducing the number of people coming in and out of the courthouse to reduce the chances of spreading this, he thought things were going to change, the very next day it was business as usual and people were still going into the courthouse and their supervisors are telling them they need to come back to work. He said he is for this for the Sheriff's office, but he is also for anyone who is told by their supervisor, since this all began, that he would be very open to approve this for them as well. He said, obviously not for the people who are at home, but if you are a supervisor and are bringing your employees in and exposing their families, why are those people any different than the Sheriff's office. He said he is open to approve this today, but he just wants to put it out there to the other department heads that if they want to do the same it will come out of their budgets too.

LaCinda stated that just because of the time of year, she has training that has to be conducted, phone calls that are coming in for payment of taxes, the process of delinquent notices; all of the things that are mandated for her to do. Michelle is currently in court, she is in this meeting,

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and her phones are still ringing, so she tries to get it down to just one person in the office, but sometimes it has to be more than that. Her office rotates in and out. It depends on what their job descriptions are. There are a lot of duties in her office that are confidential and cannot be done remotely.

Sheriff Elgan said this is a separate agenda item and LaCinda agreed and said if there are any other supervisors who feel like they would like to have something like this addressed we can put it on the next agenda.

Vera said that the Sheriff is sitting at 47% remaining in his salary budget, and about 40% sitting in his service and supplies.

Commissioner Winsor asked if anyone had a recommendation on the percentage that we want to pay at this time. Commissioner Keyes said he wanted to propose at 20% hazard pay across the board to the Sheriff's Department at this time. Commissioner Hipp said he supports that number. Commissioner Winsor said he also supports that. Vera asked 20% of what? Sheriff Elgan said 20% of hourly wage. Vera asked 20% of PERS reduce rate or non-reduce rate? Sheriff Elgan asked her for her suggestion. She suggested reduced rate. He said ok. Commissioner Keyes asked her to explain. Vera said because of how the Deputies' PERS work, we have to reduce their wages for that. Commissioner Keyes asked how long it would take to get the number on what the number would be to pay this? Commissioner Keyes asked Vera if this would cause too much trouble for Vera's office to handle. Vera said she is not suggesting a special payroll, but to put it on the next regular payroll.

Commissioner Keyes suggested we do this until the end of this fiscal year and then re-address it after that. Sheriff Elgan agreed. Commissioner Winsor agreed as well, as we are still waiting on the Governor to decide on what we are going to do.

Commissioner Hipp made the motion to approve Esmeralda County Sheriff's Office employees be paid a 20% hazard pay retroactive to March 17, 2020 until the emergency declaration has been lifted or reassess the pay before June 30. Commissioner Keyes added to have the program re-crafted at the end of the fiscal year if the COVID-19 pandemic has not been relaxed before the end of the fiscal year. LaCinda added that this is to be at PERS reduced

Commissioner Hipp restated:

Commissioner Hipp made the motion to approve the Esmeralda County Sheriff's office employees 20% hazard pay and for their officers it would be after PERS. This would be as of March 17, 2020 and approved until the end of this fiscal year, at which time we will re-assess the situation, or it can end when the emergency declaration has been lifted, whichever comes first.

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

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9. ***FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION/DECISION:** Discussion/Decision to reinstate the Senior Transportation program to allow van drivers to pick meals up on Tuesdays and Thursdays from the Nye County Senior Center and deliver them to Esmeralda County Seniors. (Commissioner Keyes)

Commissioner Keyes stated that we have some senior van income gone. This would help drivers to get some income. He said we could also probably do medical runs with a single patient. He wasn't sure if we could include this in this item. Commissioner Hipp said he supports this. He said he knew that Ellen was having issues with drivers wanting to drive, though.

LaCinda said that Cheri Bickham has been dealing with the drivers since Ellen has been out and Cheri said there are drivers who are willing to drive.

Commissioner Keyes said that the drivers can also pick up groceries at the market if that is acceptable to the drivers. Cheri said she would have to talk to the drivers about that. She doesn't know if they would have to shop or if the groceries would be ready for pick-up. Commissioner Winsor said that he understood that Raley's was no longer packing the \$20 bags. Susan Dudley said they did cancel that, so the seniors will now get gift certificates. Susan talked to Terry at Raley's and the seniors can call an order in and it will be ready for the driver to pick up. Susan said she got instructions from Nye County on how to go about getting meal pick up for the seniors.

Commissioner Hipp made the motion to reinstate the Senior Transportation Program to allow van drivers to pick up meals on Tuesday and Thursdays from the Nye County Senior Center and deliver them to Esmeralda County seniors. In addition, if manpower is available, senior drivers can also pick up medication and groceries when possible.

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

12. **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 Keyes wanted to let everyone know that Loneer released their definitive feasibility study late last week and he has been contacted by the company and they want to have a representative appear at one of our future meetings to discuss the mine project again. He said the study looks like it keeps getting better and better at his point and that it very positive for the County.

Commissioner Keyes made the motion to recess until 11:00am. Commissioner Hipp seconded the motion. All in favor: Motion carried.

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10. ***FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION/DECISION: TIMED ITEM: 11:00AM:**

Discussion/Decision for closed door negotiations with the ECSDA. (Sgt. Matt Kirkland)

Commissioner Keyes made the motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Hipp seconded the motion. All in favor: Motion carried.

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Summary: Labor negotiations were made by the Deputies Association, the D.A. and the Commissioners.

13. ***ADJOURNMENT:**

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