

Minutes from the October 06, 2020 HIGHWAY Commission Meeting

October 06, 2020

1:00PM

Esmeralda County Courthouse

Commission Chambers

233 Crook Ave., 2nd Floor

Goldfield, Nevada

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL.

Ralph Keyes -	Chairman
Delon "De" Winsor -	Vice-Chairman
Timothy Hipp -	Commissioner – by phone
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.

3. *APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES.

Batch 1: \$3,016.22

Total: \$3,016.22

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

- 4. *DISCUSSION/DECISION/APPROVAL:** Rejected Vendor Bills from Auditor's Office.
- 5. *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION/DECISION:** To allow Road department employees to be allowed to cash out annual leave over 240 hours similar to what was approved in the ECSDA agreement on 9/15/20 outlined in Article 9, section 5. (Deven Thackeray)
- 6. *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION/DECISION:** To allow department head of Road Dept. to give pay increases up to, but not to exceed, \$2.00 per hour or something less at dept. head discretion to employees that have passed probationary period or after they pass and received a satisfactory evaluation. (Deven Thackeray)
- 7. *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION/DECISION:** To allow Road department employees to have sick leave benefits that was approved in the ECSDA agreement on 9/15/20 outlined in Article 10, section 6 & 7. (Deven Thackeray)

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8. ***FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION/DECISION:** Approval to outsource donated material from Gemfield Resources, LLC to Jack Stone for community interest in the development of the Goldfield Truck Stop only. (Deven Thackeray)
9. ***FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION/DECISION:** To recommend or not that turn lanes be added on the highway headed both north and south into the truck stop. (Deven Thackeray)

Deven stated that this is in regards to the traffic control plans that was submitted by Jack Stone (the contractors) and the Truck Stop going in on the highway. It was originally submitted two years ago as a mini-mart/gas station. It was approved by NDOT as such; to have it go through just the way it is, without a turn lane going either south or north on the highway.

Deven said since then they have amended that original application to include a truck stop and NDOT has approved it as it is right now, without including a turn lane either going north or south for the truck stop.

He said the reason he put this on here is because initially when it was brought to our attention that it was approved, usually the county has input when someone is developing a project and we'd like to have our input for safety. He said it is his opinion moving forward, that with a truck stop going in, there should be a turn lane going both north and south off that highway, with big trucks coming down off that grade and if you get a set of doubles coming in there, even though the speed limit is 25 miles an hour, you want to give them a wide berth and you want to make sure that safety is not put on the back burner.

He said, having said that, if the commissioners choose to recommend to do that, it will slow the project down. He said to remember that NDOT has already approved it as-is. So he said it has put it on the agenda so the commissioners can discuss this and he said there are other things we can do too. He said he met with Sammy and there are other ways to mitigate this. He said we can put in something similar to what we have on the corner there by the hairpin; blinking lights saying slow down. He said there are other avenues that we could do besides doing the turn lanes. He said he will leave it up to the commissioners at this point to discuss.

Commissioner Keyes said he knows that we have NDOT scheduled twice a year to come and see us for proposed plans for future highway work and improvements. He said since they have already approved this he doesn't know how much teeth we would have to try to change things, but he thinks we could address it in the future at one of those NDOT scoping meetings and have it put on the front burner to have them do some form of improvement in the near future as one of the priority situations for our highway needs. He said he thinks we can write a letter to NDOT stating the fact that we have concerns over this, with this, no turn lane there. He thinks it's going to be a big safety issue there. We don't any bad wrecks in our town. We've got hazardous material coming in, we have tanker trucks; we don't want a big mess. He thinks we need to address as soon as we possibly can; with NDOT directly because it is their approval that is putting us possibly in jeopardy, in the near future. He thinks we should send them a letter with our

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concerns regarding that highway ingress/egress to the fuel station, but deal with that at a later date, with highway improvements.

Commissioner Winsor said that NDOT has approved it, but it does have to have some lane in there for safety. Otherwise, whether they are going out of town or coming into town, they are going to have a traffic jam. Commissioner Keyes said with increased traffic flow there is going to be more and more truck traffic on the 95. It is just inevitable. He asked the other commissioners what they thought of that. How do we do that? Those were his thoughts.

Commissioner Hipp said he agreed. He doesn't want to slow the project down and if NDOT has signed off on it lets move forward, but reserve the right that in the future if so chosen, we could request that they put in the addition lane. He said he is more worried about coming down, coming south from the hill, because you have the momentum, and he thinks it would be fairly easy to put a turning lane on the right-hand side of that road. But to put a turning lane in the middle; that is going to be much more difficult. And with NDOT, that could take forever to figure out. So, if they have signed off, he thinks we should move forward but reserve the right to request that in the future.

Commissioner Winsor said like he says we need to write a letter addressing our concerns on that. Commissioner Keyes said they have already approved it and Commissioner Winsor agreed. Commissioner Keyes said we just want to make them aware that we expect them to maybe work with us to get a better turn lane or safety zone there in some form as a top priority.

Commissioner Hipp said when you are coming through town and you are headed up the hill you are already going 25. It's the fact when you are coming down the hill that you are slowing down, slowing down, slowing down; and if there is a truck up front that is stopped to pull in, there is an issue there, but when you are coming from the other direction it shouldn't be an issue. Commissioner Keyes said it is still 25 as it is right now, so people coming into town a little fast coming off that hill and if someone is turning going southbound turns in front of a big-rig or something going into this gas station truck stop... It will happen sooner or later. But, as long as we are aware of that and we can deal with it with NDOT with their future projects, he thinks that can be put on the front burner.

Commissioner Winsor said like Commissioner Keyes said that is an NDOT highway, they need to put the signage in there.

Commissioner Keyes said that dealing with Sammy at NDOT, he knows that he has had some thoughts about how to slow people down a little bit and make it more safety sensitive there with more flashing lights and even rumble strips or something, he doesn't know. There is a way to deal with it in the short-term. He thinks in the long-term, we may need some turn lanes.

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Deven Thackeray came up and said they (Mike Anderson and he) met with them out there and there are other ways to mitigate. He said, let's face it, it's a cost thing too, for the owners coming in. That is something to look at for the future, but his concern is safety from jump street.

Commissioner Hipp made the motion to allow the truck stop construction to progress, based on the NDOT approval of not requiring a turning lane, but we draft a letter with our concerns to send to NDOT and that we notify the builder/developer that in the future we could possibly require them to possibly put turning lanes in.

Deven Thackeray said he would think that it has been approved, so it would be a suggestion moving forward on our part. That is what we would like to see, he thinks that is the wording we are looking forward and asked for confirmation.

Commissioner Keyes asked Commissioner Winsor if he would like to add anything to that. Commissioner Winsor said we need put in there our safety concerns at a future date that they re-address this and possibly look at a turn lane on either side, but especially on the south side coming down the hill because that is where you're going to have the most problems.

Commissioner Keyes said we can draft a letter stating our concerns and we'll sign it as the Highway Commission and send it off to NDOT and to the owner of the project, but it will affect them indirectly because it is going to be something that is going to have to be addressed in the near future and for NDOT basically put them on notice that we have this concern.

So, Commissioner Winsor seconded the motion with these other comments. All in favor: Motion carried.

Commissioner Keyes said we would have the letter at the next meeting to sign. He said he would work on the letter with Deven. He said if the other two Commissioners wanted to send some information to their assistant to go ahead. Commissioner Hipp said he thinks it straightforward.

10. **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.)

11. ***ADJOURNMENT:**

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