

Minutes from the October 20, 2020 HIGHWAY Commission Meeting

October 20, 2020

1:00 p.m.

Esmeralda County Courthouse

Commission Chambers

233 Crook Ave., 2nd Floor

Goldfield, Nevada

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

Ralph Keyes - Chairman
Timothy Hipp - Vice-Chairman
Delon "De" Winsor - Commissioner
Robert Glennen - District Attorney
Cheri Bickham - 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.)

No public comment.

3. ***APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES.**

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

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

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

6. **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

October 20th, 2020

1. Crews are currently: In Fish Lake Valley, Eddie is grading and watering the valley. He's grading Chiatovich area along with Davis Meadows with Eddie being a one-man show, for the time being, it should take approximately 3 weeks to complete the valley. We have a possible new hire coming on board in Fish Lake Valley. The reason I say possible is because I can't officially offer him a position until he takes his pre-employment drug test and it comes back negative.

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The reason I mention it now is because he's signed up with Nye County Coalition and he's on his way to truck driving school on the 19th of this month. Once he completes that, along with pre-employment testing, and everything comes back good, I will offer him the position of Fish Lake Valley Equipment Operator 1. In Silver Peak, Jesse and Mario are grading the roads in their district such as the main road going into town, Coyote Road going up to the summit, and Mineral Ridge West Gate Road, just to mention a few. As for Chris Winsor, I've got excellent news. I've worked things out with Nye County Coalition and they have agreed to send Chris to truck driving school. This will be a later class, probably in December and will be a huge help to the county. However, we will not be eligible for reimbursement of "on-the-job" training, as he is already employed by us. Nevertheless, truck driving school is the real icing on the cake for us. I want to say, for the record, that Nye County Coalition has been instrumental in developing my new crew, more so – they saved the county countless money and time in regards to training and schooling that's offered through their programs. In Goldfield, Steve will be grading Diamondfield, Poleline, Alkali, and surrounding roads. He will then transition to grading Goldfield Town. As some of you know, we recently shaped and graded the Cemetery Road, then we took left-over recycled asphalt product (RAP) and capped Cemetery Road all the way to the entrance of the cemetery. For the record, the RAP that we used to cap the road was just bladed in right over the dilapidated asphalt and native base material and it's been rolled and watered. Just imagine how nice our town roads are going to look with a mix design of the same product. We can't wait to "git 'er done".

2. Goldfield Street Repair Project: As you know, we've been hauling and stockpiling RAP and are preparing to transition to screening, which we'll eventually be pug milling. What you may not know is that we've completed hauling and stockpiling 21,500 yards of RAP. If you see small piles out there, that's just cleanup that we are taking care of. The bulk of material has been hauled and stockpiled for the next step in the process. My guys kicked butt and did a fantastic job.
3. Silver Peak or Bust Hike: As you know, it is that time of year again for the annual hike from Fish Lake Valley to Silver Peak. This starts at Eagle Road in Fish Lake Valley to Yolumne Road then up McAfee Canyon and down the other side of McAfee Canyon, past the Mohawk Mine road and past the Big Springs Loop in Silver Peak and down along the flats coming into Silver Peak. My crews recently graded the entire route to make sure the hike route was in the best possible condition.
4. Best in the Desert Update: We recently completed race repairs for the Best in the Desert (BITD) Annual race. As you may recall, we set new rates for county roads raced upon. The new rates, along with more operators and equipment, made a significant change. An example of this is as follows:

2019 – Total hours: 111.25 for a billing total of \$7,283.67

2020 – Total hours: 202.25 for a billing total of \$22,242.00

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So, as you can see, by changing rates, along with a staffed crew, we were able to cover more ground thus not having to have BITD grade our roads because we don't have the manpower to run blades.

7. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION/DECISION:** Approve for Deven Thackeray to receive an employment review and, upon satisfactory completion, to approve a raise of up to \$5,000, as budgeted in the Road Department Salary and Wages budget. (Deven Thackeray)

Commissioners are very happy with Deven's performance since he has been hired. Commissioner Hipp stated he felt the same way about this item as he did about Mike Anderson's item in that he should get the \$2.00 hour raise the other employees got for a total of \$4160.

Commissioner Keyes made the suggestion that Deven get \$3,000 now, with the caveat that he gets the remaining \$2,000 after he take and pass the SWANNA test. The other commissioners agreed.

Commissioner Winsor made the motion to give Deven Thackeray a raise of \$5,000, with \$3,000 now and the other \$2,000 after the successful passing of the SWANNA test; with the funds coming from both the road and solid waste departments. Commissioner Keyes seconded the motion. Commissioner Hipp said Nay. Motion carried.

8. ***FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION/DECISION:** Approve and sign Amendment to Amended Donation Receipt and Release of all Claims Agreement for Gemfield Resources. This has been reviewed by the District Attorney. (Deven Thackeray)

Commissioner Hipp made the motion to approve and sign Amendment to Amended Donation Receipt and Release of all Claims Agreement for Gemfield Resources. Commissioner Winsor seconded the motion. All in favor: Motion carried.

9. **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.

10. ***ADJOURNMENT:**

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