

# STOREY COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2<sup>TH</sup>, 2010 2:00 P.M.

DISTRICT COURTROOM

26 SOUTH B STREET, VIRGINIA CITY, NEVADA

## MINUTES

GREG "BUM" HESS  
CHAIRMAN

HAROLD SWAFFORD  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

BOB KERSHAW  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

JAMES G. MILLER  
SHERIFF

JOHN FLANAGAN  
COMMISSIONER

VANESSA DIXON  
CLERK-TREASURER

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### **Roll Call.**

Present: Administrative Officer Holli Kiechler, Chairman Greg Hess, Clerk-Treasurer Vanessa Dixon, Commissioner John Flanagan, Comptroller Hugh Gallagher, County Manager Pat Whitten, Director of Community Development Dean Haymore, District Attorney Harold Swafford, Fire Chief Gary Hames, Land Use Planner Austin Osborne, Recorder Sarah Jensen, Sheriff James Miller, Vice-Chairman Bob Kershaw, Community Development Director Deny Dotson.

### **CALL TO ORDER AT 2:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by The Chair at 2:00 P.M.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Chair led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mark Joseph Phillips submitted copies of the Commission Meeting Minutes from January 19, 2010, page 5, concerning the approval of the Memorandum of Understanding contract between Storey County, Dayton Valley Conservation District and Washoe-Storey Conservation District for the 2010 weed abatement program. With the help of Austin Osborne, they have found out that Spherion in Carson City is the employment organization that will be supplying the labor for the weed program. Mr. Phillips stated Kate Johnson, Office Manager of Spherion, could be contacted for employment opportunity.

Leland Johnson of Broadbent & Associates, Inc. submitted information regarding the project of Locating Orphaned and/or Abandoned Underground Storage Tanks (UST's) within the State of Nevada. Eligible tanks must meet certain capacity and location regulations and be used for storage of gasoline or diesel motor fuel. The goal is to inventory all UST's, prioritize removal and then find funding. Community Development Director Dean Haymore said a memo regarding this project was sent to all department heads asking if anyone knew of any UST's.

Mr. Haymore attended an Economic Forecast for 2010 where it was stated that the occupancy of industrial building is at 21%. The TRI area does have existing stock and will only be building to suit.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

(All matters listed under the consent agenda are considered routine, and may be acted upon by the Board of County Commissioners with one action, and without an extensive hearing. Any member of the Board or any citizen may request that an item be taken from the consent agenda, discussed, and acted upon separately during this meeting. The Commission Chair reserves the right to limit the time allotted for each individual to speak. )

**Approval of Agenda for February 02, 2010**

**Approval of Minutes for January 19, 2010**

**Correspondence** - Report from Storey County Lobbyist Maggie Lowther.

**Approval of Claims** - Payroll run 01/22/10 and Voucher run 01/29/10.

**Approval of Maps** - none

**Approval of Assessor corrections to the Tax Roll** - none

**Approval of Treasurer's Report** - none

**Approval of payment for claim of excess proceeds to Global Discoveries regarding APN 003-351-13.**

**Approval of Planning Commission Minutes** - none

**Approve Revised HR Policies** - none

**LICENSING BOARD:**

**FIRST READINGS:**

**1. GUY'S PLACE - General / 420 USA Parkway, TRI**

2. **DIVERSIFIED VEHICLE REPAIR** - General / **3033 Waltham Way, TRI**
3. **GULF COAST HANDLING, LLC** - Contractor / Mandeville, LA (provider of material for RANDA)
4. **QUICK SPACE II LLC** - General / **820 Marietta Way, Sparks**
5. **ALL SHOOTERS READY** - General/Kenneth and Carol Morrell, VCH

**END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion:** Approve Consent Agenda, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Vice-Chairman Kershaw, **Seconded by** Commissioner Flanagan.

**Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote (**summary:** Yes = 2).

**DISCUSSION/ACTION:** Committee/Staff Reports

Recorder Sarah Jensen

1. Announced that the Genealogy Index is now available online.

Community Services Director Deny Dotson

1. The Parks & Recreation survey that was mailed out last month has resulted in over 300 responses with great feedback. The actual detailed results will be announced soon. One concern people have had is that programs are being implemented at the wrong time (in terms of cost to the county). To clarify, all administrative costs associated with the proposed programs will be covered by admission fees and will be self supporting.

Land Use Planner Austin Osborne

1. The Community Development Block Grant for the street light replacement project has been modified to include replacement of windows, insulation, heaters and refrigerators in the Senior Center, Fire Departments and Community Development Department. The grant was submitted for about \$400,000 and it looks like we may get it.

Administrative Officer Holli Kiechler

1. A spreadsheet is being created to show all grant activity. Storey County currently has 32 grants in different stages of the process.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION:** Authorize the County Manger to implement Phase One cost control measures in conjunction with 5%; 10%; and 20% budget planning for 2010/2011. This includes the temporary closure of Fire Station #5 in the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center.

Chairman Hess clarified that we try to be conservative and continually monitor the budget. He attended a meeting with the Governor and The League of Cities where one county went as far as a 40% budget cut. County Manager Pat Whitten explained that cost control measures have been scrutinized for the last 6 months. Expenses are tracking at 39% halfway thru the budget year. The depth and duration of the current economic downturn will force stronger measures. Assessed property values are dropping which will have an undetermined effect. There are also \$7.4 million in assessed value issues pending before the County and State Boards of Equalization. Another big issue is the contractual obligation to pay back the TRI developer. We have set aside \$800,000 for the payback and want to augment that by an additional \$1.6 million.

The County has been meeting with all three bargaining units and all of them are willing to work together to find solutions. We must be realistic about layoffs in the cases of decreased workloads and changing priorities. Service levels must still be met. Today's request to close Fire Station #5 will hopefully be the most difficult cut to be made. Station #5 was built when there was high activity out at TRI but now it's flattened out and a few businesses are actually leaving. There may be delayed reaction times but many of the new businesses were built under new codes with fire suppression systems and some have their own emergency response groups. Ultimately, we are going back to the level of service we were at 2 years ago. Fire Chief Hames is aggressively pursuing new job opportunities for the 5 proposed layoffs which may happen around March. The other reductions under consideration include dropping a senior manager's rank and eliminating the reserve fire program in order to salvage other full time positions. The cuts are not just in the fire department but need to be done across the organization. The 18 non-represented positions will not receive step increases. The Fire Department froze step/merit increases last year and now the Sheriff and SNEA groups have been asked to do the same.

Mr. Whitten would like to officially implement an immediate hiring freeze with the understanding that there may be needed exceptions which would be considered through a cost / benefits analysis. The \$200 per month incentive to not add a spouse to insurance will be stopped March 1st. This program originally saved the County \$300 per person and has gone up to about \$600. The current medical and dental coverage contracts are being re-bid with a goal of reducing the costs by 25% without changing the plans too much, as well as maybe partnering with the School District for a better package. There may also be pinpoint layoffs and possible early retirement incentives. Mr. Whitten stressed that these are not "desperate" decisions. These are prudent measures to maintain strong business strength. Commissioner Flanagan asked about the \$7 million Board of Equalization issues in which Mr. Whitten responded that they are confident that the assessed values are correct. Chairman Hess inquired about cutting the Commissioners salaries and thanked Mr. Whitten for his work and also acknowledged Fire Chief Hames for the hardship of losing some of his group. Sheriff Miller compared his past experiences with other counties to how

great all of Storey County has been at personally attacking this crisis. He listed the concessions his department is willing to make. Fire Chief Hames described his solid relationships with his employees and thanked Chairman Hess for his leadership. Vice-Chairman Kershaw commented that none of this should be a surprise.

**Motion:** Authorize the County Manger to implement Phase One cost control measures in conjunction with 5%; 10%; and 20% budget planning for 2010/2011 ,  
**Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Flanagan, **Seconded by** Vice-Chairman Kershaw.

**Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote (**summary:** Yes = 2).

**DISCUSSION/ACTION:** Approval of Resolution 10-295 Honoring the Nevada Territory Wild West Fair. Presentation by Rich Crombie, Executive Director of the Nevada Territory Wild West Fair, about the new changes (which will impact Storey County) to the Nevada State Fair.

Mr. Dotson introduced Rich Crombie, the Executive Director of the Nevada Territory Wild West Fair. Mr. Crombie gave a “sneak preview” of the Fair and how it will benefit Storey County. The Fair is 136 years old but has kind of lost it’s meaning. His vision is to bring back the “celebration of the state” by taking the Fair on an educational journey through Nevada’s history. The Nevada State Fair’s name and logo will be officially changed. This will better our local economy by making it a national event. The main themes will be mining, agriculture, frontier living, railroads, Nevada’s contribution to the Civil War, Native American culture, Chinatown, Old Mexico as well as carnival rides. This is a STATE fair so all the counties will be involved. A Wagon Wheel layout is the concept for the new grounds that hope to be on an undetermined 75-100 acres of open land. The fair is currently a 5 day event but they are looking to expand to 10 days. The fair draws 6,000 to 8,000 visitors on weekdays and 12,000 to 15,000 on weekends. As a donation, you may buy an “Honorary Deed Share” for a minimum of \$5.00.

**Motion:** Approval of Resolution 10-295 Honoring the Nevada Territory Wild West Fair. Presentation by Rich Crombie, Executive Director of the Nevada Territory Wild West Fair, about the new changes (which will impact Storey County) to the Nevada State Fair, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Vice-Chairman Kershaw, **Seconded by** Commissioner Flanagan.

**Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote (**summary:** Yes = 2).

**DISCUSSION/ACTION:** Shaun Griffin – Community Chest: Community Center update and request to proceed with initial construction.

Shaun Griffin spoke of the vast variety of work that has gone on over the past 15 years to raise over \$1 million for the construction of the Storey County Youth and Community Resource Center. They must use the remaining \$732,000 of the HUD grant before it expires in September of 2010. They wish to build a 43 X 85 square-foot structure on the west side of the facility to house the HAWK medical and dental center and youth programs. The dream is finally coming to fruition with the Grand Opening expected in one year. They hope to break ground this coming May. Mr. Griffin invited all to a fundraiser at the Tahoe House on Friday, March 26th, 2010 from 5:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. A "Can you Imagine Banner" was read highlighting all the benefits the Center can and will provide. Chairman Hess thanked Mr. Griffin for his devotion to the project.

**Motion:** Shaun Griffin – Community Chest: Community Center update and request to proceed with initial construction, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Vice-Chairman Kershaw, **Seconded by** Commissioner Flanagan.

**Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote (**summary:** Yes = 2).

#### LICENSING BOARD:

##### SECOND READINGS:

1. **OUTBACK & BACK AGAIN** – General / 184 C Street, VC
2. **LUX ENERGIES** – Contractor / 2465 Sutro St., Reno
3. **FERNLEY ELECTRIC** – Contractor / 40 North Center, Fernley
4. **S C B Construction** – Contractor / 4170 Latigo Dr., Reno
5. **CHART, Inc.** – General / 1995 Peru, TRI
6. **NOBLE TECHNOLOGIES CORP**– General / 1280 Alexandria Ct, TRI
7. **ANVIL RECYCLING CORP (Office)** – General / 50 Ave of the Colors, RB
8. **ANVIL RECYCLING CORP (Yard)**–General / 2700 Waltham Wy, TRI

Mr. Haymore asked to approve items #1 thru #4.

**Motion:** Approve Licensing Board Second Readings #1 thru #4, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Vice-Chairman Kershaw, **Seconded by** Commissioner Flanagan.

**Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote (**summary:** Yes = 2).

Mr. Haymore asked to continue Items # 5 thru Item #8 as they are still waiting for inspections.

**Motion:** Continue Licensing Board Second Readings #5 thru #8, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Vice-Chairman Kershaw, **Seconded by** Commissioner Flanagan.

**Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous vote (**summary:** Yes = 2).

#### **BOARD COMMENT**

Chairman Hess reported that in the economic meeting with the League of Cities, the other County Chairmen and the Governor, one major discussion was that rural counties are looking to change the N.R.S. that states County Offices must be open 5 days a week, from 8 A. M to 5 P.M. Another interesting fact was that during the past 12 years in Nevada, gaming fell over 60% but the government has grown by 67%.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by call of The Chair at 3:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Jessie Fain, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer