

MINUTES OF THE CHURCHILL COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

155 No. Taylor Street, Suite 145
Fallon, Nevada
20 February 2008

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Churchill County Board of Commissioners was called to order at 1:15 p.m. on the above date by Commissioner Pearce.

PRESENT: Lynn Pearce, Commissioner
Norman Frey, Commissioner
Brad Goetsch, County Manager
Rusty Jardine, Deputy District Attorney
Alan Kalt, Comptroller
Kelly G. Helton, Clerk of the Board
Pamela D. Moore, Commissioner Secretary
ABSENT: Gwen Washburn, Chairperson

Pledge of Allegiance

It was verified that the agenda for this meeting was posted in accordance with NRS 241.

ACTION ITEMS

AGENDA

Commissioner Pearce reported that the Agenda must be revised to take off approval of the February 7, 2008 Minutes as those have not been prepared yet.

Commissioner Frey made a motion to approve the Agenda as revised.

Commissioner Pearce seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

MINUTES

Commissioner Frey made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Budget Workshops held on February 5 and 6, 2008 and the Minutes of the Water Resource Meeting of March 15, 2007 as submitted. Commissioner Pearce seconded the motion, which carried by majority vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Pearce inquired if there were any public comments on issues that were not listed on the agenda. There were none.

APPOINTMENTS

THE BOARD MAY REQUIRE THE PROVISION OF AN OATH OR AFFIRMATION BY ANY PERSON PROVIDING ORAL TESTIMONY AT A PUBLIC HEARING.

1:15 p.m. Consideration and possible action re: Permission to go to bid to purchase vehicles for the Churchill County Sheriff's Office, Jim Wood, Churchill County Sheriff's Office.

Captain Wood reported that the Sheriff's Office is seeking permission to go to bid to purchase 4 (four) new vehicles with the specifications outlined in the Agenda Report. These vehicles will replace the high mileage vehicles that are currently in their fleet. The old vehicles may be transferred to other departments who do not have the same demands of the vehicle that the Sheriff's Office requires. The funds to purchase the vehicles are included in the Sheriff's

Office budget for approximately \$185,000.00. Sheriff Ingram was in attendance to answer any questions but there were none.

Commissioner Frey made a motion to approve the request for the Sheriff's Office to go to bid to purchase public safety vehicles in accordance with the yearly vehicle replacement program included in the current year budget. Commissioner Pearce seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

1:25 p.m. Consideration and possible action re: Action to approve the Funding Agreement from the Division of State Lands (Question 1) for the Carson River Weed Abatement Program not to exceed \$111,155.00 or 42.71% of the total project cost, Nancy Upham, Churchill County Mosquito, Vector & Weed Abatement District.

Nancy Upham, District Manager of the Churchill County Mosquito, Vector & Weed Abatement District, reported that the pre-application for this program was submitted in May 15, 2006 to the Division of State Lands – Question 1 Program Coordinator. Management from the District also presented the concept of this program to the Board of Churchill County Commissioners in 2006. The award notification for this project was received by the District on February 23, 2007.

The work for this project is to be completed by the Churchill County Mosquito, Vector and Weed Control District staff. The arrangement for this grant is that the District will operationally perform the work and will submit reimbursement requests to the Division of State Lands – Question 1 Project's Department. The budget of the noxious weed department can handle putting the money out first for labor and supplies to then be reimbursed after submission of necessary paperwork. Again, Management from the District will complete all necessary paperwork for reimbursement.

Churchill County is the Governing Body for this grant as Question 1 monies needs to be distributed to "Counties". In turn, the County shall then reimburse the District for its submitted request amount. The approval from the County Commissioners and a signature will finish this part of the Funding agreement. It will then be returned for approval from the Administrator at the State Lands Registrar and at that point be fully executed.

Commissioner Frey said that we are fairly knowledgeable about how these Question 1 grants work whereby the money comes to the County and then the County passes it on to the grantee. The County has worked with a couple of these already with Parks and Recreation and the Lahontan Conservation District in the past.

Comptroller Kalt wanted to clarify that the way this grant works is that it is reimbursement based so the district will expend those funds, submit for reimbursement and then will be reimbursed. There is a time lag so it could create a potential cash flow issue. Director Upham said she understands that and the District has set the money aside for this project. She will be handling the paperwork involved. Their plan is to submit for quarterly requests for reimbursement.

Commissioner Frey made a motion to approve the Funding Agreement as set forth from the Nevada Division of Public Lands (Question 1) for the Carson River Weed Abatement Program with Churchill County Mosquito, Vector and Weed Control District. Commissioner Pearce seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Letters Received:

Consideration and possible action re: Letter from Congressman Dean Heller regarding disaster assistance for businesses being provided by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

County Manager Goetsch reported that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) now has disaster assistance available for many of the businesses affected by the devastating fires and droughts during this past year. Low-interest loans are being offered to small, non-farm businesses in seventeen Nevada counties to help offset economic losses suffered by drought and wildfires. Businesses engaged in farming and ranching may be eligible for assistance through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This item was informational only with no action taken.

Consideration and possible action re: Letter from the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension regarding a committee formed to review the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and Division of Extended Studies.

County Manager Goetsch reported that a committee was formed by the University of Nevada Reno's President, Dr. Milton Glick, and completed a review of the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE) and the Division of Extended Studies. Upon completion of the study, a summary of the evaluation and a draft report were given to the County for review. County staff and community customers, as well as other rural Nevada counties, found fault with the study and recommendations based primarily on the fact that UNCE customers were not included or consulted as part of the project.

Jay Davidson of the Cooperative Extension was present to answer any questions or clarify any questions the Board might have. Commissioner Frey said he has been following this matter and has completed a survey. He found the survey to be fairly irrelevant to the weight of the problem. It looked to him that it was designed to cover up the issue and hope it would go away, which is very frustrating to him because we, as a local government, rely on the local office for services and their expertise on various matters. Mr. Davidson said he appreciated him completing the survey. As it turned out, there were 316 responses in about a 10 day period, which is fairly significant. That information has now been compiled into a report, which was released and emailed to the Board of County Commissioners this morning. County Manager Goetsch said the letter was dated January 29th from Loretta Singletary from the University. The Board has also been provided a response from Karen Hinton dated February 13th that reflects the comments made by the Board members and community members that were at the Churchill County meeting that he attended with UNCE staff and others that represented some farmers, business men, other people that utilize extension services, and some community government representatives. The letter dated February 13 is a very good and comprehensive response to the study that seemed not to be extremely well done, nor to allow this community to participate in the study and the results. Most of the surveys that were filled out were after the fact as a response because we were not able to participate in the first place. Mr. Davidson said the actual survey was put together to try to get some input from the public because the original study didn't include any input from the public. The Extension Governing Board tried to put something together very rapidly to solicit input. As he understands it, the President has extended the comment period, although they haven't seen that officially, because there was enough response from the public saying that they want to participate in this study. It appears that there may still be time to revisit this.

District Attorney Mallory asked if the original idea of the cooperative extension network was for the federal government to ensure that the rural areas of the United States received proper education and resources in order to remain productive and useful to the rest of the country and a

substantial amount of the funding received comes from the federal government. Mr. Davidson said that is correct. The amount of funding depends on which state you are in. Nevada receives one of the lowest amounts of federal funding and they did that for a reason because, over the years, they felt that if they respond to local needs in a more efficient manner then the funding may be more secure than if they chase federal funds. District Attorney Mallory said the whole purpose of the cooperative extension was to be sure that the rural areas remained up to date and knowledgeable in the areas of agriculture, production and livestock and things of that nature. This is some type of centralization movement to absorb the cooperative extensions into the regular University. Mr. Davidson said that is a possibility. This original study was from a recommendation and there have been no decisions made. However, if you look at the options, each option, except the one to stay as we are today, includes that the cooperative extensions would be absorbed at some level into the University. The thing that District Attorney Mallory is talking about is the land grant system that had 3 legs: extension, the College of Agriculture, and the Agricultural Experiment Station. Both Ag Experiment and Extension are set up to meet the needs of the local people. Over the years, there have been several attempts to absorb these resources associated with that into the University system. The Smith Lever Act that funds the extension is clear that that should not happen. In their wisdom even that many years ago, they understood human nature and the nature of academic society in wanting to pull more resources to what they see as maybe higher and better uses of those resources. It is pretty clear in his mind that the primary function of the extensions is at the local level to bring the University to the people.

County Manager Goetsch said even more important to the facts just discussed is the fact that the County pays about 50% of the costs of the extension here because we find it so valuable and we need and use its services. Were it to be drawn back into the University where we don't have the access or the kind of personal services and opportunities provided by the current extension, his recommendation would be that we reconsider that funding. Commissioner Frey said it would be incumbent upon us to run that funding through other organizations where we pay for services if we lost those services from the extension. It is very irritating when we are paying for a public health nurse and don't see those services but we have that need. Mr. Davidson said it is critical that our feelings are known because sometimes he is not sure if folks that follow this path or have set this in motion understand how everything works. Commissioner Frey said that NACO has been fairly active in getting the word out and we have submitted written comments. County Manager Goetsch said that is correct and the letter was signed by Chairperson Washburn listing our specific concerns. Many of those concerns were reflected and expanded upon in the Feb. 13th letter from Karen Hinton. Mr. Davidson said he believes the President will be meeting with the NACO Board of Directors on the 22nd of February. Commissioner Frey said he will be there for that meeting. Other than that, he doesn't see how much more we can do at this point in time unless somebody has further directives for him to take to that meeting. Mr. Davidson said as this moves forward, he will keep the Board informed. One of the hallmarks of the extension is that they try to keep the local people driving the program. He doesn't see that changing, at least in the near future. County Manager Goetsch said a final thing to point out is that the extension has undergone extensive investigation and studies for efficiency and effectiveness in the late 1990s and again in 2001 and perhaps again later, both through the state legislature and other practices. He does not think that they or that the County has ever represented that we are resistant to looking at ways that the services can be made better and how more efficiencies and cost effectiveness could be found but it just needs to be done

correctly with the customer's involvement. Commissioner Pearce thanked Mr. Davidson. He said we have given Commissioner Frey some direction for his meeting. He asked Mr. Davidson to keep the Board informed.

Consideration and possible action re: The Churchill County Farm Bureau writes to the Office of the President of the University of Nevada, Reno concerning evaluation of the Cooperative Extension and a potential merging of Extended Studies.

The Churchill County Farm Bureau writes to the Office of the President of the University of Nevada, Reno concerning evaluation of the Cooperative Extension and a potential merging of Extended Studies. This matter was informational only with no action taken.

Consideration and possible action re: Churchill Economic Development Authority provides its proposed Budget for FY2008-2009 for consideration of financial support during the budget cycle.

Churchill Economic Development Authority provides its proposed Budget for FY2008-2009 for consideration of financial support during the budget cycle. Eric Grimes was present to answer any questions. Commissioner Frey congratulated him for being selected as the Executive Director. Comptroller Kalt said, as the Board will recall, Mr. Grimes appeared at the budget hearings with a report on their accomplishments and the vision he has for the future and this is a follow up as he indicated he would do to provide a more detailed budget. Staff is currently working on developing a balanced budget and this and other community support requests will be evaluated for available funding. It is not likely to be funded at 100% on any of our community support requests, nor will any departmental requests be funded at 100%. Staff will do our best and, obviously, economic development is very important to our community and the Board has traditionally endorsed it very strongly. County Manager Goetsch said the economic development helps the budget and we recognize that fact. CEDA has built itself up and has gotten stronger and more effective and the Board has recognized that. If the Board looks at the last page in this letter, it shows CEDA has a number of funding agencies and works hard to support its funding as well. CEDA is not asking the County for the lion's share but is asking the County to participate with the other funders.

Commissioner Frey made a motion to direct that the Comptroller include CEDA in the upcoming budget considerations for FY08-09. Commissioner Pearce seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Consideration and possible action re: Request for an extension of time on the Matthew & Kenia Biddinger Cluster Development Parcel Map (TCID#06-092, St. Clair Road).

Planning Director Lockwood reported that the Biddinger parcel map was approved with conditions on 1st March 2007. Per Churchill County Code 16.12.040C, a parcel map must be recorded within 1 year of parcel map approval unless an extension of no more than one year is granted and that just cause is provided.

The Biddingers' property is located off St. Clair Road and required construction of a paved cul-de-sac (Fairhaven Court) per County Code and Orange Book Standards and recordation of a conservation easement deed for the agricultural reservation parcel with a 99-year term and no additional development within the 11.55-acre agricultural reservation; further recommendations of the County Building Department regarding septic systems; and compliance with Churchill County Code.

Commissioner Frey made a motion to approve the request for extension of the Matthew & Kenia Biddinger Cluster Development parcel map (TCID#06-092, St. Clair Road) for one year. Commissioner Pearce seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Consideration and possible action re: Renewal of Contract with Kafoury, Armstrong & Company for professional services in connection with the audit of the County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2008.

Comptroller Kalt reported that, as the letter dated January 28, 2008 indicates, Kafoury, Armstrong & Co. have proposed fees related to the audit of the County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008. During the past several years, new accounting pronouncements and standards have been adopted and the implementation date has arrived that requires additional audit work to be performed by our independent auditors. One of the most time consuming requirements relates to the auditor's evaluation of our internal controls. Simply stated, the auditors are required to obtain a much deeper understanding of our internal controls. These will include our control environment, key controls over significant classes of transactions and upper management oversight of the financial reporting process. The estimates in the profession indicate an increase of 20 to 40% of the amount of time needed to comply with these new standards. Kafoury proposals are at the lower end of the range and may provide for a reduction in the proposed fees as they will only bill for the actual time incurred.

Kafoury is the government audit industry leader in the State of Nevada. As a member of the Committee on Local Government Finance, it has been noted that they perform the majority of the local government audits in the state. Based on our experience and the Department of Taxation, the quality of their audits is excellent. The County and CC Communications have had a great professional working relationship with the Fallon Office of Kafoury. Our CAFR has received the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting over the past three years. The FY 07 report is currently under consideration. Nevada Revised Statutes 354.624 (3) provides that the appointment must be made not later than 3 months before the close of the fiscal year.

Management representatives from the General County and CC Communications have met to review and evaluate the proposal from Kafoury. It is the committee's recommendation to approve the appointment of the local office of Kafoury, Armstrong & Co. as our independent auditors for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008 for the terms and conditions outlined in the letter.

The financial impact of the agreement is as follows: General County \$72,000, CC Communications-Telephone \$38,000, Wireless \$15,000, Long-Distance \$6,500 and Broadband at \$6,500. This is an increase over the previous year's amount due to increased work required by the new professional standards. There are adequate funds available in the budget for these professional services.

Commissioner Frey made a motion to appoint Kafoury, Armstrong & Company as our independent auditors for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2008. Furthermore, directing staff to notify the Department of Taxation of the selection of our auditors as required under the provisions of Chapter 354 of the Nevada Revised Statutes. Commissioner Pearce seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Consideration and possible action re: Approval of participation in specialized legal counsel with Armstrong Teasdale LLP for legal representation in the License Application by DOE for the Yucca Mountain Project with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Comptroller Kalt reported that, as noted in the letter from Robert List, the NRC process is now in the pre-licensing phase in advance of DOE's filing of the License Application for the Yucca Mountain Project later this year. This NRC process requires the participation of legal counsel to represent the interests of the counties who are members of the Affected Units of Local Government. It is suggested that the law firm would represent four counties with common interest in the NRC process: Esmeralda, Churchill, Lander and Mineral. Cost would be shared on an equal basis with each County paying 25% of the fees and related expenses. The Washington D.C. law firm of Armstrong Teasdale LLP has been recommended by the group to support our efforts. See the draft scope of work for licensing proceedings for more details.

Churchill County is LSN certified with the Department of Energy and has standing in the process. Churchill County receives funding to conduct oversight activities. These hearing will be very technical in nature as well as procedural in the form of providing input into the NRC proceedings. The proposed contract will protect our interest and reduce our costs related to the project. The contract could be terminated if oversight funding was not available to support this project. The final engagement agreement will be forwarded to all Counties for signature upon approval.

Churchill County receives funding from the Department of Energy as an Affected Unit of Local Government (AULG). This funding can only be used for oversight activities. The proposed cost to Churchill County for the period of March 1st to June 30th, 2008 would be \$25,000 and \$75,000 for the following fiscal year. There is adequate oversight funding to support this contract.

Commissioner Frey said his only concern is that if we did not have the general funds to support this contract that he would like it to include the provision for us to opt out at our discretion. Comptroller Kalt said the contract provides 2 outs: one is funding and second if we do not agree with the positions taken.

Commissioner Frey made a motion to approve Churchill County's participation with Esmeralda, Lander and Mineral County to engage in the professional services of Armstrong Teasdale LLP to provide legal representation for the County in the Department of Energy's filing of the License Application for the Yucca Mountain Project in front of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. This contract is subject to oversight funding. Furthermore, authorizing the Chair to sign the engagement agreement upon the approval by the District Attorney's Office. Commissioner Pearce seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

CONSENT ITEMS (Action items generally not requiring discussion or explanation)

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.

1. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS –

- A. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development notification of grant award for the homeless assistance application.
- B. The City of Fallon thanks Churchill County for the grant award of \$7,500 for the City of Fallon Centennial activities.
- C. The Nevada Climate Office provides its Nevada Climate Summary for the period of May-November, 2008.

- D. Sierra Pacific Power Company provides a copy of a Las Vegas Review-Journal article entitled “Renewables Can’t Do It All” regarding renewable energy.
 - E. The Nevada Department of Agriculture provides its meeting Agenda for the Nevada Organic Advisory Council to be held on February 8, 2008 and notice of a member vacancy.
 - F. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission provides a Memorandum re: the On-Site Licensing Representatives’ Report on the Yucca Mountain project through December 31, 2007.
 - G. The Public Agency Compensation Trust and the Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool provide their Annual Report for FY06-07.
2. **REVIEW –**
- A. Notice of denial of an indigent medical application received from Twin Medical under Client #9447. The account was denied due to non-eligible activity after collection of all data necessary to make the determination pursuant to NRS 428.
3. **COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS –**
- A. Clerk/Treasurer’s Report for January, 2008.
 - B. Recorder’s Monthly Apportion for January, 2008.
 - C. Building Department’s Revenue Report for January, 2008.
 - D. Sheriff’s Report for the Month of January, 2008.
 - E. Planning Department’s Revenue Report for the Month of January, 2008.

Commissioner Frey made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. Commissioner Pearce seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

CONSIDER FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Water Resource Workshop on the 28th of February.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

CHAIRPERSON WASHBURN: Chairperson Washburn was absent.

COMMISSIONER PEARCE: Commissioner Pearce said he had a short meeting schedule including the Fire Board meeting where they discussed the potential for the Fire Board to come to decision on whether to seek a request for a tax override. It was taken under consideration and he expects a decision soon. He pointed out the necessity of involving members of the Fire Department to attend public events and forums to discuss their reasons for why they need the tax override, to demonstrate what they do and how they save lives and homes, and what the money will be used for. They have until July to come before the Board. He met briefly with the Western Manager for Banner Churchill Hospital and had a good meeting with him. They continue to move forward with facilitating the land swap and trade with Churchill Hospital Inc. and Churchill County. They are continuing to work out the details and then it will come back before the Board sometime in the near future. He noted that the Museum board would have been on Monday, which was a holiday, so they will meet tonight.

COMMISSIONER FREY: Commissioner Frey reported that he attended the *Lahontan Valley News* “Meet the Publisher” event. His name is Kevin Todd. He did an interview on KHWG and they said they would like to have Commissioner Pearce do one as well. It was an interesting interview. At the Senior Board meeting, they reviewed the finances for the Senior Center and the CART facility. They are running on track pretty well and there are some improvements

being done at the Senior Center. He participated in the Bull Sale Dinner, which didn't seem to be very well attended this year but was a good dinner, as was the Republican Lincoln Day Dinner, where Dean Heller was the speaker and was attended by Senator Raggio and other party officials. He received information about the eclipse happening tonight between 7:00-7:50. Commissioner Pearce said it will be at its height at about 7:26 p.m.

COUNTY MANAGER GOETSCH: County Manager Goetsch said the spy satellite will be shot down tonight about 9:30 p.m. Eastern time. Staff has been busy working on the budget but we have successfully engaged all of the department heads, elected officials and employees to talk about where we are, where we want to go and what recommendations will be made to prepare the Board for the hard decisions to be made. Geof, Alan and he continue working on the recommendations to minimize the risk and the impact on services and employees with the budget issues. As the Board knows, we have already done a real good job with administrative support and supplies, as well as travel costs. They are addressing personnel costs, capital costs, and some voluntary measures by employees to reduce costs and personnel costs.

We have had a number of water offerings lately and have the specialized accounts for water purchases. At the Board's next meeting or perhaps the one after that, staff will have some recommendations for purchasing surface and ground water and will probably work with other government agencies and initiate an updated appraisal on surface water values. Commissioner Frey sent him a question on the lands bill and he met with Mary Connelly last week. He will be working with the legislative staff next week in Washington D.C. to follow up exactly what is happening with the Lyon-Mineral land bill. Our efforts have been to tie that request for the 860 acres that was supposed to have been in a previous lands bill in White Pine County that our legislators were not successful in getting through. He thinks that is the reference that was made to us having a piece in a lands bill. He will confirm that and work with those agencies to be sure that there is nothing that Churchill County is unaware of or that we haven't initiated ourselves that gets included in the Lyon or Mineral County lands bills. Commissioner Frey said it seems to him that we need to be sure because we do not want to end up having the lands bill cover us and force other issues upon us like Wilderness areas and other requirements that the federal government puts into lands bills. As he understands the Lyon and Mineral County lands bills, Lyon County asked to be taken out and they won't let them out. He would rather see us not get our land and we'll go after it in a different way. County Manager Goetsch said they will work with those groups next week to be sure we know what is going on.

In that meeting with Mary Connelly, it was specifically about juvenile detention funding and the potential to get federal appropriations to help with the approximate \$3 million shortfall. We received very positive indications from her back that a letter was drafted between all of the interested counties, which Comptroller Kalt reviewed and made some input, and the letter did meet the deadline for appropriations for Senator Reid's staff to take the lead as a proponent for federal funding to help this multi-county effort. There was also some talk at that meeting about the AB380 follow on program, where \$3 million has been set aside from the federal government. As you will recall, that is the \$3 million that the AB380 program was shorted from the federal government. Now they have come up with that money and we are in the process of working with federal agencies and the tribe to determine how that might be administered, probably including participation from Churchill County, if not being the primary administrator. The tribe, County and some of those federal agencies will be meeting in the coming months to determine how that program can be effective and perhaps be more effective and efficient than the original AB380 program. The purpose of that money is still earmarked to work on challenged or dry

water to clean up those issues. In that meeting, the other thing discussed was the Truckee Canal opening and he delivered the Resolution from the County to Mary Connelly to verify our wishes that as soon as safety is secured to reopen that canal for Fernley and Lahontan Valley folks.

The Moody Lane project is moving along rather quickly, although the rain today probably set them back a little bit but we are approaching 80% completion. There are couple of small change orders that have just popped up and today's meeting was a pretty strong one between the contractors and the County on what is expected to finish the project. We are already seeing a draw down or diluting of the project as some of our contractor's have started bigger projects in other counties. There is kind of a sense of urgency and competition for assets for now and we will need to watch that very closely. Mr. Stojicevic is on top of that. He will be traveling to Tempe on Monday and Tuesday to look at the multi-use facility and then will travel to D.C. later in the week.

COMPTROLLER KALT: Comptroller Kalt said as County Manager Goetsch talked about, they have almost finalized our budget mitigation plan for the current year. His hat goes off to our elected officials and department heads for their targeted cuts where they recommended to us where we could have savings. We are dipping into some one-time monies and will come before the Board in June for a transfer from our stabilization fund to the general fund. The good news is that the current year appears to be resolved and we are working vigorously on the 2009 budget. The Department of Taxation came out with their preliminary estimates on Friday the 15th and he is matching those up with his figures. He was somewhat shocked that we had differing opinions on one revenue source where he was higher than the Department of Taxation, which is very rare. He is reevaluating the methodologies he is using to make sure his number is solid if we are going to use a number greater than the Department of Taxation's number.

Taxable sales through November are down 10% cash over the prior year. Again, as the Board will recall, we budgeted an increase. Our projected shortfall is about \$832,000 in the current year. Everyone is waiting for the December numbers to determine where we are at.

They are working on the dispatch labor negotiations. They have held a series of meetings and things are progressing through the normal cycle and they will continue to meet until they reach a tentative agreement. They hope to reach that tentative agreement after a couple more meetings.

Concerning POOL/PACT, they submitted all of the renewal application information. The Executive Committee is working with the 2 mutual companies, Public Risk Mutual and the Public Compensation Mutual, to have us take in more risk internally and keep our costs down. He will keep the Board advised of that situation.

We have submitted 10 submittals on the Moody Lane project, the most recent last week for \$1.6 million. That brings our submittals up to \$8.8 million on that project. It has been a joy working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The timeliness of reimbursement is outstanding.

He and Commissioner Pearce attended the Debt Management meeting, which was organizational in nature. The School District gave an update on their bond proposal. They don't know at this time what they are seeking, what amount they are going for, what tax rate they are looking at and are putting it off. He and County Manager Goetsch have been attending the school board meetings to keep abreast of that situation. The City recently issued some revenue bonds for some of their capital improvements on their utilities very similar to what we have done on our water and wastewater over the last year.

CART finally got the NDOT agreements. Those were signed by Commissioner Pearce since Chairperson Washburn is gone so we should start seeing reimbursements on that. He attended the Board of Equalization meeting, which was interesting and they have another meeting on Monday dealing with land values on the former gated community called Northgate. Hartford was out and conducted several meetings and some plan changes took place. They are doing a good job of working with plan participants to keep them updated.

He has been working with Clerk/Treasurer Helton on getting our new check stock and new processes in place to gain some time efficiencies and control efficiencies. As Commissioner Pearce talked about concerning the hospital, Deputy District Attorney Jardine drafted a Resolution for economic development as it relates to establishing that area as a medical complex or facility, which they hope to bring before the Board in March. Once they receive updated appraisals and are able to secure a fair market exchange that will be the recommendation that will come before the Board to keep that project moving forward.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY MALLORY: District Attorney Mallory reported that the State Supreme Court established a special commission to study indigent defense because of problems in Clark County and issued an order that could have a very detrimental affect to the financial situations of all the counties in the State of Nevada concerning the standards that have to be met by a public defender or attorneys representing indigents. They are right now doing their best to fight that. Both Pershing and Humboldt County, with their assistance, have filed Motions for Reconsideration and Motions to Set Aside the Order. They have been in communication with Washoe County who is also against that. They are working on that because it could do us tremendous detriment as far as our budgetary considerations concerning the public defender. He knows that Comptroller Kalt was just asked for those figures. Hopefully, we will be able to make them realize that the problems in Clark County aren't problems in Churchill County . In December he filed an Amicus Brief with the United States Supreme Court because apparently he is one of the few District Attorneys in Nevada who is admitted to the United States Supreme Court. They were successful in that, resulting in guaranteeing that public officials have a certain amount of immunity in their discretionary conduct and they can't be sued, which dealt with the Washoe County District Attorney's office but it applies to all of us. Lastly, he was contacted by the National Rifle Association asking that he file an Amicus Brief in the Washington D.C. case concerning the right to bear arms, Second Amendment being an individual right, and he has done so based on the fact that in his judgment as an elected official, his constituents would want him to take that position. These are major matters that, hopefully, will have a good affect on our County.

CLERK/TREASURER HELTON: Clerk/Treasurer Helton had nothing to report.

CLAIMS AND PAYROLL TRANSMITTALS

The claims and payroll transmittals submitted for this meeting were reviewed and approved.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Gwen Washburn, Chair

ATTEST:

Kelly G. Helton, Clerk of the Board