

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA

SPECIAL MEETING

MONDAY

9:30 A.M.

JANUARY 9, 2006

PRESENT:

Bonnie Weber, Chairman
Bob Larkin, Vice Chairman
Jim Galloway, Commissioner
David Humke, Commissioner

Amy Harvey, County Clerk
John Slaughter, Management Services Director
Melanie Foster, Legal Counsel

ABSENT:

Pete Sferrazza, Commissioner

The Board met in special session at the Ranch House at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park, 1595 North Sierra Street, Reno, Nevada. No Pledge of Allegiance was conducted because there was no flag in the room. The Clerk called the roll and the Board conducted the following business:

06-01 AGENDA

Gary Schmidt, local resident, discussed taking items out of sequence and grouping items. He mentioned that two attorney's with the District Attorney's Office had given differing opinions on the procedure for deleting items from an agenda. He also mentioned that the Salute to the Flag was deleted from the agenda because there was no flag in the room. Chairman Weber said that protocol dictated if no flag was in the room, the Pledge was not recited.

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, on motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Larkin, which motion duly carried, Chairman Weber ordered that the agenda for the January 9, 2006 special meeting be approved with the following change: **Delete** Item 1, Salute to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gary Schmidt, Washoe County resident, spoke about the Board's performance during 2005, stating it was not the Commission's greatest year; and he alleged there were violations of the public records and open meeting laws. He also

discussed the Andrew Lane fire and the area's recent flood. He suggested Commissioner Sferrazza should become the new Chairman.

Juanita Cox, area resident, discussed the Andrew Lane flood.

06-02 REVIEW OF OUTCOMES – STRATEGIC PLANNING

Erica Olsen, Facilitator, said the Board had previously approved and adopted the Vision and Mission Statements, Strategic Priorities, and Goals. She mentioned the County's indicators were linked to the Truckee Meadows Tomorrow indicators. She said she and John Slaughter wanted to limit the amount of indicators to three or four per priority in order to make them more manageable and mentioned indicators should be easy to measure.

John Slaughter, Management Services Director, said using the community indicators to drive what the County was doing was looked at.

Commissioner Larkin said some of the Truckee Meadows Tomorrow indicators had been benchmarked.

Commissioner Galloway said the first priority and its indicators were good, but there was no indicator for encouraging civility.

Commissioner Larkin said with regard to Goal 3-Indicator 1, "lowering" insurance premiums was not the appropriate indicator; rather insurance premiums themselves would be the indicator.

Commissioner Humke asked what type of insurance was being referred to. Commissioner Larkin suggested all insurance and using an insurance index rather than a specific type of insurance.

Chairman Weber stated she liked the references to Truckee Meadows Tomorrow in both columns of the chart the Board was looking at, stating it made it easier to read. Commissioner Galloway thought the references should be listed in one place only. Ms. Olsen reminded the group it was a document still in progress.

Commissioner Humke said Goal 1-Indicators 2 and 4 should be changed to include "statewide" due to possible upcoming legislation. Commissioner Galloway suggested "regional and statewide" for Indicator 2 and "consistently" be added to the end of Indicator 4.

Commissioner Larkin said the indicators would be incorporated into the 2006/07 budget cycle that had already started and asked how that would be communicated to the departments for inclusion in their budgets.

Mr. Slaughter said the final version for approval would be done within the month. He stated departments had copies of the draft from this meeting and were working the goals into their budgets.

Commissioner Larkin said when departments presented their budgets, they would need to tie them to specific indicators rather than just the goals.

Commissioner Humke said Goal 2-Indicator 6 should indicate flood control planning preceded transportation. He noted infrastructure planning was extremely important and needs should be prioritized.

Commissioner Galloway said, during annexation talks held the previous week, it was suggested that anything that was done in the way of intensification should be found by the joint coordinating committee as not conflicting with the flood project, but this was rejected.

Commissioner Larkin said there was a fundamental problem with collecting funds for something that was conceptual rather than constructed.

Chairman Weber said a specific indicator for flood control might be needed. She said it should also be included under the strategic priorities. She suggested it read as “develop policies to require flood control”.

Commissioner Galloway suggested “progress on flood control and infrastructure projects” as an indicator. Commissioner Humke noted the statute should be cited.

Commissioner Galloway said Goal 2-Indicator 7 should be deleted.

Erica Olsen mentioned Goal 4-Indicator 6 would become an indicator.

In response to Commissioner Humke, Mr. Slaughter said the purpose of Goal 4-Indicator 7 was an attempt to support a healthy economy and the County was currently buying instate at a rate of about ninety percent. Chairman Weber stated the indicator should be deleted.

Commissioner Larkin said “within two years” should be removed from Goal 4 Indicator 8.

Commissioner Galloway said “by June 2007” should be removed from Goal 4 Indicator 9. Commissioner Humke questioned why it was not under the Quality of Life goal. The group agreed it should be moved to that goal.

Chairman Weber said the timeframe should be taken off of Goal 4-Indicator 10 and thought it worked better under Public Service.

Mr. Slaughter noted it would be appropriate under both goals. He noted the original discussion group felt that by improving governmental processes, the economy was improved; thus, placing it under Healthy Economy would be best. Chairman Weber said staff should look at the best area for the indicator.

Chairman Weber stated Goal 6-Indicator 7 should not be an indicator or a goal due to it being internal by nature and should be deleted.

Commissioner Humke noted the County needed to retain knowledge. Mr. Slaughter said Human Resources did exit interviews, and that tool could be developed in an effort to collect knowledge. Commission Larkin said this was more managerial in nature.

Mr. Slaughter said the goal was to have the final draft charters before the Board for approval by January 24, 2006. He discussed the layout of the charters and mentioned that 90-day milestones would be continually updated.

Gary Schmidt, area resident, discussed the customer service goal with satisfaction at 75 percent and the employee satisfaction goal with satisfaction at 80 percent. He said if businesses in the public sector accepted those percentages, they would be out of business. He also mentioned encouraging civility and the Andrew Lane area, stating the County had not been out to the area since the flood.

Juanita Cox, local resident, addressed the board on various issues of concern to her.

06-03 DISCUSSION OF TOUR(S) – COAL FIRED POWER PLANTS

Kim Gunn, staff member, said she would coordinate tours and educational forums for citizens. She noted arrangements would be made to include Gerlach residents, so they would not have to travel great distances. She noted the forums would have a question and answer period. She stated the forums would be taped and arrangements for call in capabilities would be made.

Commissioner Humke suggested they look at all potential markets for retail power.

Chairman Weber said the forums might be set up to begin in March with forums happening once a month after that in Chambers. She noted legal counsel said tours would be limited to two County Commissioners and three Planning Commissioners at a time. Ms. Gunn said the forums might be pushed out to May or June with the possibility of going out to August.

Commissioner Galloway stated the forums were a good way to get the facts out to the public and noted the experts should be varied so all opinions on a topic could be heard.

Chairman Weber noted the County would not take a stand during the forums stating the goal was education for all.

Commissioner Galloway said environmental groups should be included in the forums. Commissioner Weber noted the forums would be set up with panels and would not include debates.

Commissioner Humke asked if a satellite downlink would hook Gerlach into the forums and if there was any possibility of dish services. Chairman Weber said staff was looking at all possibilities.

Ms. Gunn said people from neighboring areas in California, as well as neighboring counties, would be invited to attend.

Commissioner Galloway said the tours should include all energy sources and suggested a trip to Livermore. He noted questions along with responses should be posted on the Internet.

Gary Schmidt, Washoe County resident, discussed the possibility of Open Meeting Law violations if tours were conducted, stating they could be considered serial meetings and would need to be properly noticed. He requested Counsel look at these meetings to decide if this was the case.

Juanita Cox, area resident, suggested using a bus or van so anyone interested could go on the tours and notification of the tours should be made if a quorum existed.

Donna Stammers, local resident, stated Gerlach residents wanted the facts and asked the group to look at renewable energy sources.

Tom Clark, SEMPRO, said this was the largest economic development project in the history of Washoe County.

Susan Lynn, Nevada Clean Energy Coalition, said they were proponents of alternative energy sources and were opposed to the project. She asked that the Coalition be given a chance for input and suggested a video camera be taken on the tours.

Chairman Weber said she wanted the chance to talk to people while on the tours and did not envision each Commissioner would go to the same locations.

Commissioner Humke said he would not go forward on this issue if he felt the applicant was leading the process as was suggested by an audience member.

On motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, which motion duly carried, Chairman Weber ordered that the schedule of

tour(s) of coal fired plants, as well as alternate powered sites to include geothermal, wind and any other hybrid, the creation of specific working groups for those visits and forums that would be comprised of experts and professionals be approved. It was further ordered that this issue be brought back to the Commission at a future Board meeting.

11:35 a.m. The Board recessed.

11:40 a.m. The Board reconvened.

06-04 **DISCUSSION – QUARTERLY STRATEGIC PLANNING
RETREATS**

Erica Olsen, Facilitator, discussed the suggested timeline for the quarterly retreats. Chairman Weber said she would like to start the meetings earlier in the day and suggested 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with meetings being held at the Rancho San Rafael Ranch House.

Gary Schmidt, local resident, discussed regional retreats and suggested they not be called retreats, but rather workshops. He also suggested all meetings held outside of the Chambers be videotaped.

On motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, which motion duly carried, Chairman Weber ordered that the strategic planning retreats scheduled for April 10, July 17, and October 9, 2006 and January 8, 2007 be approved.

06-05 **DISCUSSION – CREATION OF STRATEGIC PLANNING
MASTER CALENDAR**

John Slaughter, Management Services Director, noted the County had a master calendar; and the dates accepted in the previous item would be integrated into that calendar along with any deadlines.

Commissioner Larkin said the Board should initiate contact and reach out to the other governmental entities to engage in a dialogue of strategic planning. Commissioner Galloway noted the Cities should be receiving notices of meetings.

Chairman Weber said the last retreat with the department heads was very beneficial, and the October 9, 2006 meeting would be another department head meeting.

Commissioner Larkin suggested the Commissioners could meet the morning of, but prior to, the department head retreat.

Gary Schmidt, Washoe County resident, requested the Clerk include all of his comments in the record in detail, asking that the comments he made under the previous item be incorporated in this item. He said a videotape should be provided to

Reno and Sparks of all meetings. He then talked about the difference between retreat and workshop.

On motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Larkin, which motion duly carried, Chairman Weber ordered that the meeting dates be accepted with the clarification that the Cities of Reno and Sparks would be invited to the July meeting and the October meeting would be with the department heads.

06-06 DISCUSSION – COMMUNICATION POLICY AND PROTOCOL

Commissioner Larkin stated communication protocols were needed to facilitate better communication and to help deploy resources more efficiently.

Commissioner Galloway said if a Commissioner asked an employee to do something, the department head and County Manager should be carbon copied on the request. He wanted to be sure that simple requests for information could still take place informally.

Commissioner Larkin said a full discussion was warranted, but he was not looking for a motion today.

Chairman Weber noted that the Commissioners' interns needed to be trained in proper protocols. Commissioner Galloway stated the flow of information back to the Board should be addressed as well.

Chairman Weber asked if the Cities of Reno and Sparks had similar policies. Commissioner Galloway said he was familiar with their policies and did not want anything similar, stating they were too stringent. Chairman Weber said she would like to see them.

Commissioner Humke stated carbon copies would cover most things. Commissioner Galloway noted they needed to be careful not to cut off information that is freely given to the public by way of the protocol.

Gary Schmidt, local resident, said the Board was not entitled to any information that was not also accessible to the public and said all employees should have a public web cam recording their actions at their desks.

Juanita Cox, area resident, discussed public access to public records stating the policy would help. She noted a lack of communication with the local fire departments.

Commissioner Galloway asked if the Board could just comply with the intent of the policy rather than formally adopt it. He said adoption would open the Board to complaints.

Commissioner Larkin said the County Manager should be involved in the discussion. Chairman Weber asked that this item be discussed at a Board of County Commissioners meeting or another retreat. She noted the purpose of the item was to initiate discussion.

Commissioner Galloway suggested it be discussed at the April 17, 2006 retreat. He said folks within the Manager's Office could help interns, and any communications from an intern should specify it was on behalf of a Commissioner.

Chairman Weber said she would like to hear from Commissioner Sferrazza and County Manager Singlaub on this issue.

**06-07 DISCUSSION – PROCESS FOR APPOINTMENTS/
REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Chairman Weber noted this item was on the agenda for tomorrow's Board meeting and suggested continuing it until that time.

Gary Schmidt, area resident, urged the Board to establish a set of alternates for all Boards and Commissions comprised of the public sector.

Marge Frandsen, local resident, stressed the importance of appointing planning commission members in a timely manner. She noted the lack of attendance of the Director at these meetings. She mentioned the need for funding for continuing education for the Planning Commissioners and the Citizen Advisory Board members.

Commissioner Larkin noted training for Boards was an item on the January 10, 2006 agenda. Commissioner Humke said the Open Meeting Law training should be opened to all Boards and Commissions.

On motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, which motion duly carried, Chairman Weber ordered that this item be continued to the meeting scheduled for January 10, 2006.

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

BONNIE WEBER, Chairman
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

AMY HARVEY, County Clerk
and Clerk of the Board of
County Commissioners

*Minutes Prepared by
Jill Shelton, Deputy County Clerk*