

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA  
SPECIAL MEETING**

MONDAY

10:00 A.M.

MAY 20, 2002

PRESENT:

**Pete Sferrazza, Chairman**  
**Joanne Bond, Vice Chairman**  
**Jim Galloway, Commissioner**  
**Jim Shaw, Commissioner**  
**Ted Short, Commissioner**

**Amy Harvey, County Clerk**  
**Katy Singlaub, County Manager**  
**Madelyn Shipman, Legal Counsel**

The Board met in special session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada and conducted the following business.

**AGENDA**

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, on motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Short, which motion duly carried, Chairman Sferrazza ordered that the agenda for the May 20, 2002, meeting be approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was no one present wishing to speak.

**02-493**      **MANAGER'S/COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Bond requested that staff analyze the feasibility of converting the Pioneer properties into a parking lot.

Commissioner Galloway advised that the Thunderbird Lodge at Incline Village held a grand opening last week, and the Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society is conducting a major campaign to raise \$10,000 to pay off the note on the property so it could be preserved historically.

Chairman Sferrazza noted that the Board requested some items for discussion prior to the public hearing on the budget regarding district populations and breakdown of assessed valuation. John Sherman, Finance Director, presented and reviewed documentation concerning Commission District Population, assessed valuation statistics by district, and the impact of redevelopment districts. Legal Counsel Shipman

noted that the new district populations do not take place until January 2003. Chairman Sferrazza requested that this issue be revisited next year.

**02-494            TENTATIVE AND FINAL BUDGET – WASHOE COUNTY -  
FISCAL YEAR 2002/2003**

**10:45 a.m.**     This was the time set in a Notice of Public Hearing published in the Reno Gazette-Journal on May 10, 2002 to consider the Tentative Budget, as well as possible adoption of the Final Budget for Washoe County for Fiscal Year 2002/2003. Proof was made that due and Legal Notice had been given.

Chairman Sferrazza opened the public hearing and called on anyone wishing to speak. There being no response, the public hearing was closed.

Lisa Gianoli, Budget Manager, conducted a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Washoe County Fiscal Year 2002/2003 budget. She said the budget was prepared with the challenge of a slowing economy as well as increasing costs and demands on services. Ms. Gianoli said that when the budget process started in December there was a budget gap of almost \$14-million, and through reductions in the current year of \$11-million, and a 5-cent tax increase imposed by the Commissioners, the budget was brought into balance. She stated there is currently 37.79-cents of allowable tax rate remaining for Washoe County and the 5-cent tax increase would leave 32.79-cents of unused authorization. She noted the amount of unused authorization is due to the many years that no authorization of tax rate was included in the preparation of the budget; and the challenge of the slowdown in revenues and increase in costs and demand for services from a growing population has been met by a recommended budget that is as lean as possible and minimizes the impact on taxpayers while maintaining services.

Commissioner Galloway noted that the per capita expenditures for the County show an efficiency of scale that is rare in government. He said he would like to see other governmental entities prepare a chart concerning per capita expenditures to see if they are achieving efficiency of scale. He noted that the 5-cent tax increase is broken into 3.5-cents for operations and 1.5-cents for critical needs for public safety and health.

Commissioner Shaw commended staff and said the budget reflects the efficiency that Washoe County has accomplished over the years.

Commissioner Short noted that Washoe County has shown considerable fiscal restraint. He said he does not like to raise taxes and believes the department heads, Finance Department and Budget Division have worked very hard to balance the budget.

Chairman Sferrazza stated he has no doubt the County has been very frugal, at least since 1998. He requested additional information from the Budget Division concerning County budget issues.

Ms. Gianoli thanked the Budget staff and department heads for their hard work on the budget. Ms. Singlaub commended the Budget Division and all of the Finance staff on a great job. Chairman Sferrazza thanked staff and department heads for their efforts. He stated that, although he does not intend to vote for the budget, staff did a great job under the parameters set forth by the County Commission.

On motion by Commissioner Shaw, seconded by Commissioner Bond, which motion duly carried with Chairman Sferrazza voting "no," it was ordered that the Final Budget for Washoe County for Fiscal Year 2002/03 be adopted.

Chairman Sferrazza advised he did not support the motion because he has indicated in the past he would not vote for a tax increase without a vote of the people.

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

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**PETER J. SFERRAZZA**, Chairman  
Washoe County Commission

**ATTEST:**

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

*Minutes Prepared By:*  
*Barbara Trow*  
*Deputy County Clerk*