AGENDA ITEM 3  Public Comment.

On the call for public comment, a voicemail from Ms. Carole Black was played, in which she requested that Washoe County, the Health District, and the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority actively disseminate information to rental constituents regarding current regulations and restrictions as a result of the novel coronavirus pandemic. Ms. Black spoke in support of a temporary ban on short-term rentals in Incline Village and Crystal Bay due to the area’s limited medical resources and the need for social distancing. Ms. Black asked the County to restrict access to crowded areas in Lake Tahoe and said she had provided documents for the Board which included a photo of one of the areas in question. Ms. Black expressed concern that visitors continued to travel to Lake Tahoe and nearby areas despite stay-at-home orders.

County Clerk Nancy Parent advised the Board Ms. Black had also provided written commentary, a copy of which was placed on the record.

AGENDA ITEM 4  Announcements/Reports.

County Manager Eric Brown advised that the first virtual town hall meeting had been held on Friday, April 10, and the next would be held on Friday, April 17. The second meeting would focus on the business community. Mr. Brown thanked communications staff and SoSuTV for making the meetings a possibility. Regarding Agenda Item 11, he noted staff intended to provide updates to the Board in May regarding mitigation efforts taking place in Lemmon Valley.
Commissioner Hartung asked whether it was possible to suspend fees for all home-based business licenses. He said the financial impact would be low for Washoe County, but the savings could be significant for home-based business owners. He also wanted to know whether Waste Management could continue services and defer payments for accounts which had become past due during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. He inquired about the possibility of the County creating an ambassador or ombudsman position to assist individuals having difficulty completing unemployment forms or using the online claims system. He noted he and Mr. Brown had participated in a recent call regarding peer support for the region’s first responders including local police, fire, hospital workers, dispatch workers, and paramedics, and the Commissioner expressed concern the pandemic could cause or exacerbate post-traumatic stress disorder in individuals and first responders.

Vice Chair Berkbigler wanted to know whether the County could work with the host compliance contractor to disseminate recent press releases to short-term rental (STR) property owners regarding new restrictions and recommendations related to the pandemic. She noted she had spoken with several area property managers who agreed to suspend STRs through the end of April, but this did not address the issue of websites allowing owners to advertise STRs to the public directly. The Vice Chair acknowledged many people were still traveling to Lake Tahoe and did not seem to grasp the concept of the shelter-in-place advisory issued by the Governor. In Truckee, California, she noted there were 49 confirmed COVID-19 cases, one death, and 19 patients currently hospitalized. She stated it was clear small mountain towns were in danger and many others were dealing with an influx of visitors. She wanted to know whether it would be possible to close trails in the Caughlin Ranch area because crowds of hikers were getting too close to residences there. She thanked the area’s first responders for their efforts and also Mr. Brown, expressing appreciation for his hard work during a very challenging time.

Commissioner Herman discussed garbage collection in the North Valleys, stating garbage was piling up and had been for some time; more garbage was being generated with more people staying home. She requested a breakdown from staff on how funds were being spent.

Commissioner Jung requested someone send a letter to law enforcement in California areas bordering Incline Village and Crystal Bay regarding California’s decision to begin issuing $1,000 citations to anyone caught traveling for non-essential purposes. She indicated that, although Washoe County was unable to issue those types of citations due to Nevada law, it might be worthwhile for neighboring communities to cite these individuals whenever they crossed into California.

Chair Lucey discussed social distancing and other protective measures to reduce the spread of infection, noting Commissioner Hartung and Vice Chair Berkbigler were both wearing face masks. Chair Lucey stated he had also brought a mask but had chosen not to wear it during the meeting as it made communicating more difficult. He explained the Commissioners and staff in the County Manager’s office were working every day to support the health of the community. He thanked everyone for their participation.
and said Mr. Brown was working diligently to get additional personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff in the Health District who worked with the public. Chair Lucey thanked Mr. Brown for securing two pallets of PPE for County employees, which was expected to arrive around April 22 or 23.

Chair Lucey also announced the Edison housing project he had been working on was almost ready, and he praised the work of Greg Jackson, a member of the Incident Management Team and a firefighter with a construction management background, who had been working every day to orchestrate the project. The Chair thanked the many County and City of Reno employees who had assisted with the project, including police, fire, public works, building safety, and maintenance staff. He thanked the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, the Reno Fire Department, and the Health District for working quickly to ensure the safety of the site. He listed a number of community partners who had also contributed. He noted that, under the guidance of Commissioner Hartung as Chair of the Truckee River Flood Management Authority, the site for the project had been provided free of rent. He hoped full-capacity use of this emergency housing would not be necessary, but the County would be prepared for a worst-case scenario.

Chair Lucey also spoke about the hospital beds being set up at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center in the event additional capacity was needed for more critical patients at the hospitals. This project would also be complete in a couple of weeks.

**AGENDA ITEM 5**

Appearance and presentation by Washoe County District Health Officer Kevin Dick and Incident Commander Sam Hicks on COVID-19 impacts and emergency response, to include an update on hospital surge capacity and planning, an update on COVID-19 impacts and emergency response in rural areas outside the Reno/Sparks metro area, and other items related to the COVID-19 emergency response in Washoe County.

Washoe County District Health Officer Kevin Dick stated that, as of April 13, 2020, there were 39 new cases of novel coronavirus disease (COVID) in Washoe County, with 500 confirmed infections, 12 deaths, 71 recoveries, and a total of 417 active cases. Of those active cases, 31 were hospitalized and 39 had been discharged from the hospital. Mr. Dick indicated the County continued to operate a call center in conjunction with the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority to screen callers for symptoms, and there was also a web-based risk assessment platform being used to schedule individuals for testing. He thought state labs at the University of Nevada Reno School of Medicine were doing a good job maintaining capacity for testing and being innovative in manufacturing test collection kits, even while this had been problematic nationally.

Mr. Dick said the County operated a drive-through testing post on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, and had collected 213 samples the day before. The National Guard visited on Saturday and had been impressed with Washoe County’s organization and setup. He also said there were plans later that day to discuss integration
of National Guard personnel and resources into the County’s operations for the purpose of providing additional capacity for sample collection, support services, risk assessments, scheduling, test result follow-up, and case contact for those who tested positive.

Mr. Dick explained 53 percent of acute care beds in the County were currently occupied, with 43 percent of intensive care unit beds occupied and 22 percent of the area’s ventilators in use as of the previous day. He discussed different projections and models for when the area’s peak might occur, and he acknowledged the uncertainty of the projections due to the fact that COVID-19 was such a new disease with information constantly being updated as it became available. According to the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation model prepared by the University of Washington, April 20 was the projected date on which Nevada’s hospital bed capacity could be exceeded, but a more updated projection indicated the peak might have already occurred on April 8. However, Mr. Dick noted, this model was based on statewide data, whereas COVID-19 cases continued to increase locally. Another model, the COVID Act Now model, which included information specifically for Washoe County, projected hospitals might become overloaded by May 25, with local hospitalizations peaking around June 7. Yet another model developed by the Los Alamos National Laboratory, which Mr. Dick understood was being reviewed by the Governor’s medical advisory team, projected the peak might occur sometime between April 20 and May 11, 2020. Mr. Dick said the models were revised each time additional data became available, and he thought some positive impacts had been seen in the projections as a result of the community’s social distancing efforts.

Mr. Dick explained staff was working with local hospitals to prepare and to increase surge capacity by 135 to 150 percent, and Renown Hospital was temporarily adding extra capacity in their parking garage. The Health District was also preparing a non-acute care and shelter facility at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center where recovering COVID-19 patients could be moved to free up bed space in the main hospitals for the more critical patients. He said Governor Steve Sisolak had activated the Crisis Standards of Care Guidance, an ethical decision-making structure which could be used by healthcare providers to determine the best use of resources if medical capacity was exceeded. Mr. Dick hoped Washoe County would not reach that point but admitted it was necessary to prepare for the possibility. He asked everyone to continue social distancing precautions and stay home unless the need to go out was absolutely essential, and he suggested people with essential business use face coverings to help reduce the spread of infection when they went out.

Mr. Dick discussed housing needs in the community related to the COVID-19 emergency. Staff was working with the Record Street homeless shelters to help spread out the population sheltering there and provide more space in which clients who presented with flu-like symptoms or those confirmed to have COVID-19 could be isolated. He said clients could also be moved to Well Care where they would have access to case management and health services through the 24-hour on-call nurse. He noted Incident Commander Sam Hicks would later discuss the developments with the Edison housing project.
Mr. Dick stated the Health District had provided directives that all short-term rental property owners inform guests of the County’s mandatory 14-day quarantine for all individuals who came from outside the area, after which those guests would be subject to Governor Sisolak’s guidelines regarding social distancing, leaving the residence only for essential business, and wearing masks when they had to go out.

Mr. Dick commended Health District staff and community volunteers who had quickly shifted their responsibilities and were working long hours in order to assist with the public health emergency. He explained the Health Department’s Emergency Operations Center had been activated on January 27, 2020, and since then staffers had worked 24 hours per day and seven days per week to support the region’s changing needs and address the pandemic.

Commissioner Hartung expressed appreciation for the hard work of Mr. Dick, Health District staff, and local first responders. He asked what would happen if there were a surge in COVID-19 cases that overwhelmed state testing labs, and he wondered whether the Health District had considered working with cannabis lab facilities to increase COVID-19 testing capacity.

Mr. Dick stated officials were working with a lab in Southern California to enhance Nevada’s testing capability. He noted 5,000 collection kits were received by the lab the previous day and staff was working with them to complete the required paperwork, while the lab also worked with State officials to be able to properly report test results. Mr. Dick said the Governor’s task force was working to identify additional testing capabilities for the state, and he hoped to meet with a representative from that task force the following day. He added officials were always looking at additional testing opportunities, not only to manage any possible surges, but also to increase the state’s ability to identify and isolate any new cases which could arise after businesses began to reopen.

Commissioner Hartung applauded the effort to increase capacity by using outside labs, but opined testing and the jobs created by the need for testing should be kept local whenever possible.

Vice Chair Berkbigler thanked Mr. Dick for his efforts to get visitors in Incline Village to stay self-isolated. She described an online press conference she had seen which discussed outbreaks in other parts of the country and recalled a comment regarding how the virus might infect 50 percent of the population but had only reached 10 percent thus far. She expressed confusion regarding the subject and asked whether Mr. Dick could provide further insight. While he had not heard the specific comments Vice Chair Berkbigler referenced, he thought the discussion might have been related to the concept of herd immunity, where the spread of a contagious disease could be suppressed if a majority of individuals in a population received vaccinations and developed antibodies. Mr. Dick noted that, because there was not yet a vaccine for the novel coronavirus, COVID-19 herd immunity could not be achieved until a majority of the population had been infected, recovered, and developed antibodies to fight the virus. He added the goal was to avoid the
higher rates of infection through social distancing until a vaccine became available, because suffering and death rates would increase as infection rates increased.

Vice Chair Berkbigler inquired about quick-test kits. Mr. Dick replied there was a reliable DNA test for COVID-19 which could yield results in about 15 minutes. He said those units had just been received in Washoe County. However, there were considerations to be addressed regarding how the tests could be applied and where best to deploy them as supply was still limited. Mr. Dick noted Governor Sisolak had just provided prioritization guidelines for the quick tests that morning.

Commissioner Jung wanted to know if there were estimates regarding when adequate supplies of tests would be available locally. Mr. Dick acknowledged obtaining COVID-19 tests and personal protective equipment (PPE) had been a significant challenge throughout the country in areas where officials had expected the federal government to assist with needed resources. He did not have exact information as to when Washoe County might be able to secure sufficient supplies to address the community’s anticipated needs. He said it was only through the innovation of the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory and Dr. Mark Pandori and his staff that Washoe County had been able to continue with the testing provided thus far. He noted vendors had very limited supplies, even for large facilities such as LabCorp and Quest Diagnostics, and local officials were being told to obtain both testing and PPE supplies directly from the commercial market. It had also been reported that the federal government was intercepting and redirecting materials which state and local municipalities were attempting to procure, and orders for test collection kits placed weeks or even months before by the Health Department had still not been fulfilled. Mr. Dick hoped the supply would be provided soon, and that the federal government would work to support local governments in the future.

Commissioner Jung asked whether a regular report on supply levels could be provided to the Board as a dashboard item as information became available. She recalled the Washoe County Health District often did not receive the same pass-through grants that many of the nation’s other health districts received because Washoe County did not agree to the terms of those grants. While that was unfortunate, it also gave the County experience operating without aid of that type. She thanked Mr. Dick for his professionalism.

Chair Lucey expressed concern about a statement made during the previous week’s virtual town hall that up to 80 percent of individuals infected with the virus could exhibit no symptoms, and could therefore be spreading infection without realizing it. He thought this posed a huge challenge and wanted to know how the County would be able to determine when local infections had peaked without enough tests, and how that information could be relayed to the Governor.

Mr. Dick acknowledged officials did not know exactly how many people had been infected because so many were asymptomatic or had mild symptoms. However, comparing the percentage of positive results to the total number of individuals tested was a way to estimate the community’s true infection rate. Over time, the rate of positive tests in Nevada had risen from about 6 percent to 12 percent, and he noted that positive rates in
New York and New Jersey were as high as 35 to 37 percent at the peaks; he hoped Nevada would not reach those levels. In order to achieve this, he stated the community needed more tests as well as specific antibody tests that could determine whether an individual had developed antibodies to COVID-19 as opposed to the common cold, which was also a type of coronavirus. Efforts to develop those specific antibody tests were underway, and Mr. Dick said more information was also needed regarding the possible immunity developed by those who recovered from COVID-19. He concluded by stating that life would not simply return to normal when things began to reopen, but work might resume with social distancing and mask requirements in place.

Chair Lucey asked when antibody tests might be available, but Mr. Dick did not know for certain. Mr. Dick noted work was still being done on the tests’ accuracy and production could begin once effectiveness had been determined. Chair Lucey thanked Mr. Dick for the information.

Incident Commander Sam Hicks advised the Board there were two large projects currently underway: the Edison housing site and the step-down care site at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center for recovering COVID-19 patients. He noted a post-testing site was being coordinated by the Health District and had gone so well that the National Guard decided not to set up their own site in the area. Mr. Hicks explained the Edison housing site was a collaborative regional project which encompassed many components, beginning as just a vacant lot and quickly becoming a housing project with more than 60 trailers in just seven days. He said many public, private, and government entities had come together to make the site a reality. He praised the work of the project’s Branch Director, Greg Jackson, and noted the plans had changed almost daily based on fluctuating projections.

Mr. Hicks discussed the alternative care site at the Reno Sparks Convention Center, where work was currently being done on two of the halls with a third to be considered after it was determined whether social distancing had been successful in reducing the community’s need for hospital beds. Mr. Hicks explained the Convention Center site would be a non-acute care unit, but there were plans in the event additional acute care beds were needed. He reported the Army Corps of Engineers was reviewing the community’s cases and had worked well with the County on preparing the facility. He concluded officials were now waiting to see if there would be a surge in new cases after the recent Easter holiday, or if enough individuals in the community had maintained social distancing to help keep new infections at bay.

Commissioner Jung said it was important to remember this was an unprecedented problem and everyone needed to be gracious as officials worked through things. She thanked Mr. Hicks for his comments. Chair Lucey thanked the incident command team members who worked around the clock on many different issues related to the crisis. Commissioner Hartung suggested it might be good for the Edison site and the alternative care site to have websites which would provide updates and explain the housing project’s purpose and temporary nature.
CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – 6A1 THROUGH 6H5

20-0177 6A1 Approval of minutes for the Board of County Commissioners' regular meeting of February 25, 2020. Clerk. (All Commission Districts.)

20-0178 6A2 Approval of minutes for the Board of County Commissioners' regular meeting of March 10, 2020. Clerk. (All Commission Districts.)

20-0179 6A3 Acknowledge the communications and reports received by the Clerk on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners. Clerk. (All Commission Districts.)

20-0180 6B Recommendation to 1) approve roll change requests, pursuant to NRS 361.765 and/or NRS 361.768, for errors discovered on the 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 secured and unsecured tax rolls 2) authorize Chair to execute the changes described in Exhibits A and B and 3) direct the Washoe County Treasurer to correct the error(s). [cumulative amount of decrease to all taxing entities $3,377.42]. Assessor. (All Commission Districts.)

20-0181 6C1 Recommendation to approve a Water Rights Deed to re-convey 6.08 acre-feet of underground water rights under permits 33371 & 52127 from Washoe County to: 1) Raymond P. Callahan, Trustee of the Callahan Residence Trust; 2) Billy M. Burko and Teri L. Burko, husband and wife; 3) Dennis C. Callahan, Trustee of the Callahan Trust; 4) PGSF, LLC; 5) Karen M. Mullen, Trustee of the Mullen Trust; 6) Kenneth C. Baldwin and Kasey Kemmet; and, 7) Raymond P. Callahan, Trustee of the Callahan Trust. Community Services. (Commission District 2.)

20-0182 6C2 Recommendation to award a bid and approve the Agreement to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder for the 2020/2021 Encroachment/Excavation Repair Project for Incline Village, [staff recommends West Coast Paving, in the amount of $108,975.00]. Community Services. (Commission District 1.)

20-0183 6C3 Recommendation to: (1) approve an Interlocal Cooperative Tetrachloroethene (PCE) Agreement by and between the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and Washoe County that establishes terms and conditions of work to be conducted for continuing characterization of PCE contamination in the Kietzke/Mill Street potential source area, in support of the Central Truckee Meadows Remediation District (CTMRD) program; and (2) authorize staff to competitively bid the associated investigative field work and present the resulting agreement(s) to the Board for consideration [estimated cost is $300,000]. Community Services. (Commission District 3.)
20-0184  **6C4** Recommendation to accept the Nevada Department of Wildlife Shooting Range Grant [in the amount of $255,537.50 with a Washoe County cash/in-kind match in the amount of $85,180.00] and approve the Notice of Subgrant Award #SG20-06 with a grant period from final execution through June 30, 2020; and authorize the Assistant County Manager [Dave Solaro] to sign the Notice of Subgrant Award #SG20-06 and any subsequent documents related to the grant on behalf of the County; and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Community Services. (Commission District 5.)

20-0185  **6C5** Recommendation to approve a Phase II Agreement for Professional Services between Washoe County and Nichols Consulting Engineers (NCE) in support of the Lake Tahoe Clarity Protection Program Support Services project in the amount of $52,000 and authorize an increase up to $25,000 for additional services that may be required. Community Services. (Commission District 1.)

20-0186  **6C6** Recommendation to approve Resolution R20-026 calling a public hearing (to be set for May 12, 2020) on the amendment of the boundaries of District No. 24 (Groundwater Remediation/Central Truckee Meadows Remediation District) in Washoe County, Nevada; providing for a notice of hearing and for other matters properly related thereto. Community Services. (All Commission Districts.)

20-0187  **6C7** Recommendation to approve an Indemnification Agreement between Di Loreto South Truckee Meadows, Inc. and Washoe County and approve disbursement to Di Loreto South Truckee Meadows, Inc; [in the amount of $133,000.00] funding to come from the Washoe County Sewer Utility. Community Services. (Commission District 2)

20-0188  **6D1** Recommendation to approve budget amendments totaling an increase of [ $129,204.00] in both revenue and expense to the FY20 Opioid Overdose Data to Action grant retroactive to February 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020 and if approved, direct the Comptroller’s office to make the appropriate budget amendments. Health District. (All Commission Districts.)

20-0189  **6E1** Recommendation to approve the updated Washoe County Telecommuting Policy. Human Resources. (All Commission Districts.)

20-0190  **6E2** Recommendation to approve updated Washoe County Military Leave Policy. Human Resources. (All Commission Districts.)

20-0191  **6E3** Recommendation to approve the Washoe County Families First Coronavirus Response Act Policy effective retroactive to April 1, 2020. Human Resources. (All Commission Districts.)
Recommendation to acknowledge the Board of County Commissioners FY20 Quarter 2 Dashboard Report to include Washoe County's Strategic Plan update, Marijuana Fund update and Special District Funds update. Manager’s Office. (All Commission Districts.)

Recommendation to approve Commission District Special Fund disbursements in the amount of [20,000] for Fiscal Year 2019-2020; District 3 Commissioner Kitty Jung recommends a [14,000] grant to the University of Nevada Reno Foundation to support Senior Outreach Services; a [5,000] grant to the Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation to support the participation of Washoe County employees in the Truckee Meadows Trails Challenge; a [1,000] grant to Washoe County Human Services Agency to support the purchase of gift cards for basic needs for community members affected by the COVID-19 pandemic; approve the necessary resolutions, and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary disbursement and budget appropriation transfers of funds. (Commission District 3.)

Recommendation to approve Commission District Special Fund disbursement in the amount of [$10,000] for Fiscal Year 2019-2020; District 2 Commissioner Bob Lucey recommends a [$5,000] grant to the Community Foundation of Western Nevada to support the Food for Heroes Fund; a [$5,000] grant to the Friends of Washoe County Library to support the South Valleys Library STEAM Program; approve Resolutions necessary for same; and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary disbursements of funds. Manager’s Office. (Commission District 2.)

Recommendation to approve Commission District Special Fund disbursements in the amount of [$17,000] for Fiscal Year 2019-2020; District 5 Commissioner Jeanne Herman recommends a [$1,500] grant to the Nevada State High School Rodeo Association to support the Washoe County High School Rodeo Club, a [$1,500] grant to the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to support Washoe County 4-H Livestock Leaders for youth members as they pursue their personal goals to learn about the livestock industry; and a [$2,000] grant to Saving Grace Academy to support the purchase of daycare equipment and Washoe County permits; a [$5,000] grant to the Food Bank of Northern Nevada to purchase food to aid in the organization’s COVID-19 response; [5,000] to Washoe County Emergency Management to purchase Personal Protective Equipment to provide to first responders and medical professionals responding to the COVID-19 pandemic; a [2,000] grant to Salvation Army of Washoe County to support Reno’s Men’s Adult Rehabilitation Program, approve the necessary resolutions, and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary disbursements and budget appropriation transfers of funds. Manager’s Office. (Commission District 5)
20-0196 6G Recommendation to waive six month cooling off period for independent contractor Noelle Parks and to approve an independent contractor agreement for Ms. Parks to perform casework services retroactive to February 2020, [annual cost will be 20% of each Specialty Court Grants award]. Reno Justice Court. (All Commission Districts.)

20-0197 6H1 Recommendation to approve the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Bureau of Land Management and the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office for the increased protection of persons and property on the public lands and roads for the period of March 10, 2020 to March 9, 2025. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

20-0198 6H2 Recommendation to accept receipt of a direct grant award [$210,538.00, no County match required] from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), FY2019, Project number 2020-AP-BX-1112, to the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office, Detention Bureau. Beginning date of the grant term is retroactive to October 1, 2019, with no end date. If approved, direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

20-0199 6H3 Recommendation to accept the 2020 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) additional funding and extension[amount not to exceed $4,989.00, 25% In-Kind County match required] as administered through the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Division of Child Family Services,) to be utilized for the Sheriff’s Office Victim Advocate, and to provide emergency housing and emergency services such as food and shelter for victims of domestic violence, for the retroactive grant period of July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020, and if approved direct Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

20-0200 6H4 Recommendation to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Parr Outreach Program - Washoe County Sheriff’s Office and University of Nevada - Early Head Start Program to provide collaboration services to pregnant women who are incarcerated [no cost to the County] for the retroactive period of April 1, 2019 until March 31, 2022. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

20-0201 6H5 Recommendation to approve the Interlocal Agreement between Washoe County on behalf of the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District for the testing and training connected to Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) equipment at a cost [not to exceed $63.00 per hour] for the period of May 22, 2020 to May 22, 2022 with an option to extend one additional year. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)
Commissioner Herman said she thought Item 6C4 might include some sort of relief for the shooters on the west side of the county, and she wanted a grant procured to put signs up on Peavine Mountain. Regarding Item 6C5, which discussed Lake Tahoe’s water clarity, she hoped there would also be clarity improvements for Swan Lake. Referencing Item 6F1, she asked whether some of the money from marijuana sales could be directed to the North Valleys to assist the fire department with the cleanups needed in Sun Valley.

Commissioner Hartung noted Item 6C4 involved funds to be used for an archery facility, and he asked Assistant County Manager Dave Solaro if the funds could also be used for a ballistic range or a portion of one. Mr. Solaro responded the funds came from grants from the Nevada Department of Wildlife, with some money set aside for archery and other funds intended for a roadway to the shooting facility in Palomino Valley. Commissioner Hartung said he often saw people in Spanish Springs who did not want to drive all the way to the shooting facilities in Palomino Valley or Winnemucca Ranch, and would instead pull off the road and shoot in inappropriate locations. Adding to Commissioner Herman’s discussion regarding illegal dumping, he noted shooters often used illegally dumped garbage as targets. He thought a potential solution would be to create additional facilities for the public to use for shooting. Mr. Solaro agreed and said staff would continue to search for grants which could be utilized to help the County establish or maintain additional shooting facilities.

There was no public comment on the Consent Agenda Items listed above.

On motion by Vice Chair Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 6A1 through 6H5 be approved. Any and all Resolutions or Interlocal Agreements pertinent to Consent Agenda Items 6A1 through 6H5 are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

**BLOCK VOTE – ITEMS 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 18**

20-0202  **AGENDA ITEM 7**  Recommendation to award a bid and approve the Agreement to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder for the 2020/2021 Encroachment/Excavation Repair Project for Truckee Meadows [staff recommends Sierra Nevada Construction, in the amount of $288,200.00]. Community Services. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7 be awarded and approved.
AGENDA ITEM 8  Recommendation to award a bid and approve the Agreement to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder for the Bowers Mansion Pool Deck Expansion Project [staff recommends Houston Smith Construction, in the amount of $211,730.00]. Community Services. (Commission District 2.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 8 be awarded and approved.

AGENDA ITEM 9  Recommendation to: (1) accept and approve Nevada Division of State Lands Fund to Protect Lake Tahoe Amendment #1 to the Project Funding Agreement for the Lower Wood Creek Phase I Water Quality Improvement Project (FTPLT 18-003), effective from the date of execution and extending the termination date from March 31, 2021 to March 31, 2022; (2) accept Grant Funding [in the amount of $1,080,000 with additional matching funds of $200,000 funded through a 319(h) subgrant award, combined with existing project matching funds to meet grant obligations]; (3) direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget amendments; and (4) authorize Assistant County Manager Dave Solaro to execute the Amendment and enter into all necessary agreements and contracts. Community Services. (Commission District 1.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 9 be accepted, approved, directed, and authorized.

AGENDA ITEM 10  Recommendation to authorize disbursement of funds [in the amount of $31,615] to Nevada Tahoe Conservation District to be used as a match for 319(h) funds for Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation in accordance with obligations and commitments contained in an Interlocal Agreement with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, utilizing Washoe County’s Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Mitigation Funds in support of the work. These funds will be used for continued implementation of the Lake Clarity Crediting Program and towards the pollutant load reduction milestones required to meet the TMDL approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Community Services. (Commission District 1.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.
On motion by Vice Chair Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be authorized.

20-0206  **AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommendation to authorize purchase orders for emergency agreements and construction contracts for the continued operation of the 2019 mitigation and response measures associated with both the Lemmon Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant for seepage and backup pumping systems associated with the treatment plant and collection system [not to exceed $100,000], and for the continuation of the rental, operation, and maintenance of the pumping system around Swan Lake to mitigate flood and storm waters [not to exceed $350,000]. Community Services. (Commission District 5.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 11 be authorized.

20-0207  **AGENDA ITEM 13** Recommendation to approve contracts and purchases exceeding $50,000 in response to the impacts due to the COVID-19 Crisis. (All Commission Districts)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 13 be approved.

20-0208  **AGENDA ITEM 14** Recommendation to approve budget amendments totaling an increase of [$349,723.00] in both revenue and expense to the FY20 Tobacco Control Program for a youth tobacco and e-cigarette/vaping use prevention grant retroactive to February 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 and if approved, direct the Comptroller’s office to make the appropriate budget amendments. Health District. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 14 be approved and directed.
AGENDA ITEM 15  Recommendation to approve the revised Interlocal Contract Between Public Agencies between the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Health Care Financing and Policy and Welfare and Supportive Services Divisions and Washoe County to maintain the County Match Program, under Title XIX of the Social Security Act, assistance to individuals in long term care facilities retroactive to July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021 in total amount not to exceed [$12,525,019.94 ($5,828,646.98 for FY20; $6,696,372.96 for FY21)]; and if approved authorize the Chair to execute the Contract. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts).

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 15 be approved and authorized.

AGENDA ITEM 16  Recommendation to approve Professional Service Agreement between the County of Washoe (Department of Juvenile Services,), and Richard G. Weiher, Ph.D. (Consultant) to provide psychological evaluations for juvenile court and juvenile probation. The agreement shall be effective upon board approval through June 30, 2022 and [shall not exceed $150,000] per fiscal year. Juvenile Services (All Commission Districts).

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 16 be approved.


There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 18 be approved.
AGENDA ITEM 12 Recommendation to approve, pursuant to NRS 278.040 and on the recommendation of the Chair, the appointment of Larry Peyton to the Washoe County Planning Commission representing Commission District 1 (generally includes Incline Village and Crystal Bay, most of the Southwest Truckee Meadows area and portions of the Forest area along the west side of Mt. Rose Highway), to fill a partial term beginning on June 1, 2020, and ending on June 30, 2022, or until such time as Mr. Peyton no longer serves on the Planning Commission or a successor is appointed, whichever occurs first. Applicants include: Dereck S. Barrett, Thomas B. Courson, Michael Lefrancois, Larry Peyton, D. Alexandra T. Profant, Joy Royston, Joseph Schulz. Community Services. (Commission District 1.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

Vice Chair Berkbigler noted two of the applicants did not actually live within the footprint of Commission District 1 and therefore did not qualify. She explained that, after reviewing applications and speaking with staff, Mr. Peyton was determined to have the appropriate experience, skills, and interest for the appointment.

On motion by Vice Chair Berkbigler, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Larry Peyton be appointed to the Washoe County Planning Commission representing District 1, to fill a partial term beginning on June 1, 2020, and ending on June 30, 2022, or until such time as Mr. Peyton no longer serves on the Planning Commission or a successor is appointed, whichever occurs first.

AGENDA ITEM 17 Recommendation to acknowledge status report and possible direction to staff on the Financial Impact to Washoe County due to the COVID-19 Crisis. Manager’s Office. (All Commission Districts.)

Assistant County Manager Christine Vuletich conducted a PowerPoint presentation via Zoom, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. Ms. Vuletich reviewed slides with the following titles: COVID 19 Crisis Financial Impacts & Mitigation Strategies; COVID 19 Crisis Financial Impact – Economic Uncertainty; Financial Impact – Could Impact 3 Fiscal Years; Financial Impacts – Costs FY 2020 (March – June); Decisive Action is Needed to Mitigate Financial Impact; Financial Impact Mitigation Goals; Immediate Actions – Thru June 30, 2020; Mitigating Financial Impact thru June 30, 2020; Financial Impact – Longer Term Concerns (FY 21 & Beyond); Financial Impact on FY 2021 Budget and Beyond; and Next Steps.

Ms. Vuletich discussed the economic impact of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, noting how quickly the decline in revenues happened as a result of the sudden economic shutdown, and how the reopening of the economy was expected to be a gradual process done in staggered phases for different business types. She advised the situation was changing daily, both locally and nationally. All revenue streams were
impacted, but the hardest-hit revenue source was the consolidated tax (C-tax), which accounted for approximately 33 percent of the County’s General Fund revenue.

Ms. Vuletich introduced Budget Manager Lori Cooke, who explained more than 80 percent of the County’s C-tax revenues came from sales and use taxes, infrastructure sales taxes, and government services taxes. Ms. Cooke noted many people held onto their vehicles during the Great Recession in 2008 rather than buying new ones; others left the area and no longer had vehicles registered in Washoe County, which affected government services tax revenues. Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, the County’s distributions in January 2020 had been at 18 percent, which she said was robust. She expressed concern that pass-through grant funding could be affected and local governments had been cautioned to prepare for budget reductions in the event the State of Nevada no longer had the resources to fund programs after responding to the pandemic.

Ms. Cooke explained revenues had decreased while expenses had increased significantly. Some projections estimated the unemployment rate as a result of COVID-19 could end up being higher than the rate during the Great Depression. She stated the actual fiscal impact was still unknown, as financial figures for March would not be available until the end of May, and April’s information would not be available until the end of June.

Ms. Vuletich asked Ms. Cooke to briefly review how staff had worked to validate some of the County’s projections by utilizing other data available from Applied Analysis and the Department of Taxation. Ms. Cooke noted the Department of Taxation had recently revised their initial projections for different local governments and municipalities to account for the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, these revisions were done prior to the actual lockdown of the economy and the numbers had not yet been updated since the lockdown. It was difficult to provide exact numbers, Ms. Cooke said, but she estimated between 20 and 35 percent of the County’s C-tax revenues could be lost.

Ms. Vuletich explained Washoe County had recently participated in a conference call with all Nevada counties except Clark County, and all were taking mitigation measures and bracing for significant fiscal impact. Some services Washoe County typically provided had already been reduced, and the top priorities were to support public health and keep the County’s employees working. Ms. Vuletich noted the alternate care site still needed between 30 and 40 employees, and employees who could not work remotely could redeploy to other areas of need. She cautioned that the County’s reserves alone were not large enough to fully weather the COVID-19 crisis.

Ms. Cooke remarked the current focus was to figure out how to get through the short-term until June 30, 2020. She said the extra budget would not carry forward and around $2.1 million would not transfer forward to capital improvement projects. She noted there was a list of capital improvement projects which had been deferred or placed on an indefinite hold and would need to be reprioritized. Ms. Cooke stated the County was fortunate that fiscal year (FY) 2018’s year-end results allowed for the replenishment of the Stabilization Fund. She suggested reviewing cost-saving efforts which had worked well
during the Great Recession and working with departments to come up with other plans to reduce costs, noting staff would have to return for Board approval on some specific actions.

Ms. Cooke reviewed the estimated revenue impacts through June 30, 2020, the estimated cost of the COVID-19 emergency response, and suggested cost-saving measures which would be brought back to the Board for approval. She said staff anticipated the entire FY21 would be impacted, and there could still be ongoing costs in the future even if the County was able to move beyond just the cost of the immediate response to the crisis.

Ms. Vuletich said staff had shown the sharp decline which had occurred over the last 3.5 months, but what needed to be considered going forward was what would happen in FY21. She reviewed some of the longer-term potential impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, and noted the County had already been contacted by Standard & Poor's Financial Services, who wanted to know what was being done to mitigate fiscal impacts that could affect its credit rating.

Ms. Cooke agreed considering initial impacts through June 30, 2020 was important, but it would be even more important to continue evaluating the next three years to ensure the County’s budget was sustainable. She discussed staff’s suggested ongoing strategies into the next few years, saying she hoped it would not take ten years for the County to recover, but staff was being conservative as they did not yet know the full fiscal impact of the crisis.

Ms. Vuletich explained suggestions to immediately mitigate the financial impact of the crisis through June 30 would be brought before the Board for approval around May 12, when staff would also present the proposed FY21 budget.

Vice Chair Berkbigler asked whether staff had heard from the Governor as she had not heard anything from the President about helping states with the fiscal impact of the crisis. She wondered whether there might be a special legislative session in the future. Ms. Vuletich responded she anticipated a special session of the Legislature might occur later in the year.

Chair Lucey discussed the net impact of the County’s loss of revenue and the cost of responding to the COVID-19 crisis. He noted seven of the ten largest employers were gaming companies and the remainder were governmental agencies. With gaming employers being the largest in the region, Chair Lucey felt it was critical to develop a plan to help businesses get back on track.

Chair Lucey expressed disappointment that Washoe County’s population was not large enough to qualify for a federal aid package under the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act and would instead have to go through the State of Nevada for assistance. The State would be dealing with other counties at the same time and this could be a potential barrier to quickly receiving assistance. In the meantime, he said, Washoe County would need to bear the burden of the up-front costs of responding to the crisis.
Chair Lucey wanted to know how the County could help small businesses. He discussed Community Development Block Grant funds and potential stimulus packages. He did not imagine the Governor would reopen Nevada’s casinos anytime soon, which could fiscally impact Washoe County as well.

Commissioner Hartung said more than $250 million in emergency funds could be provided to the State of Nevada, but he was not certain if any of those funds would be available to Washoe County or if they would only help fund the State’s crisis response and efforts.

Vice Chair Berkbigler expressed concern that much of the funding might go directly to first responders rather than the County helping to manage the disbursement of funds. She noted hospitals had been full before the crisis and, although elective surgeries had been delayed due to the pandemic, residents’ health concerns persisted. She felt a similar analogy could be applied to the County’s business that costs would accrue whether the economy was shut down or not. She said the federal government was not talking about counties using their funds to cover many of the up-front costs of managing the crisis.

Commissioner Jung thought Washoe County needed to act quickly and be fiscally responsible by reviewing the financial services provided. With gaming and government being the two largest employers in the region, she said it did not bode well for the diversification of the state. She suggested using subject matter experts and being more pessimistic with projections but remaining optimistic about the future. She recalled the County had survived difficult situations before such as the Great Recession. She recommended moving swiftly and focusing on critical missions, and only then could the County work to return to a relatively normal state of operations. She reminded everyone the crisis could be managed and employees could be moved to other positions if needed.

Commissioner Hartung asked whether the strategy outlined on page 10 of the handout was a pseudo-motion. Ms. Vuletich replied staff was looking for approval on the actions on page 7, which were immediate actions to be taken through June 30, 2020. She said staff would return later with the items outlined on slide 10 as part of the proposed FY21 budget.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Commissioner Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Herman, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that staff be directed to take immediate action on the steps outlined on slide 7 of the staff presentation.
AGENDA ITEM 19  Introduction and first reading of an ordinance approving an “Amended and Restated Development Agreement (Sierra Reflections)” originally approved in 2008 (DA08-003) regarding Sierra Reflections Subdivision (approved in 2006 as Tentative Map TM06-001) for World Properties, Inc. The project is a 938-lot, single-family residential, common open space subdivision as authorized in Article 408 of the Washoe County Development Code. This agreement extends the deadline for filing the next in a series of final maps from June 14, 2020 to June 14, 2022;

And

To approve an amendment to conditions of approval for Tentative Subdivision Map Case Number TM06-001 (Sierra reflections) to update and remove outdated language including the following:
1. Remove Department of Water Resources conditions; Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) is now the water provider;
2. Remove Vector Control conditions; Washoe County District Health has updated conditions and added conditions for water and grading requirements;
3. Amend Fire Safety provisions with current fire code requirements; and
4. Remove two conditions and updated the other condition for the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC). The project is bordered on the north by Pagni Lane, on the east by old US Highway 395, on the south and as far south as Little Washoe Lake in the Pleasant Valley area. The project encompasses a total of 29 parcels that total approximately 759.6 acres. The parcels are located within the South Valleys Area Plan. The property is located within the South Truckee Meadows/Washoe Valley Citizen Advisory Board boundaries and within Washoe County Commission District No. 2. (APNs 046-060-45 and 47; 046-080-40; 046-090-01, 04 through 18, and 23 through 26; and 046-100-02 through 04, 07, 09 and 10).

And, if approved, schedule a public hearing, second reading and possible adoption of the ordinance for April 28, 2020. Community Services. (Commission District 2.)

The Chair opened the public hearing by calling on anyone wishing to speak for or against adoption of said ordinance. There being no response, the hearing was closed.

Nancy Parent, County Clerk, read the title for Bill No. 1836.

Commissioner Hartung anticipated more requests for extensions based on recent changes in the economy and he understood the need for the request. Chair Lucey added there had already been an extension of the plan in question when he joined the Board in 2014, and extensions had been somewhat routine for this developer. He noted Agenda Item 19 had been unanimously approved by the Citizens Advisory Board.

The applicant’s consultant, Mr. Ken Krater, provided comments via telephone. He advised another extension was being requested as the property was large, diverse, and had many challenges. He described the developer’s recent progress on the
project and the ways in which they were working to reduce the amount of grading needed at the site to reduce the impact on neighbors. He mentioned they were working with the community and the Nevada Department of Transportation to consider the use of a roundabout to improve public safety at an intersection which had a historically high number of traffic accidents. He described a recent well pumping test which the developer felt benefitted both the Truckee Meadows Water Authority and the project, as well as working with engineering staff on the sewer line which would run through Pleasant Valley. He discussed working with Chief Moore regarding the recently-approved consolidation of fire stations in the area to ensure the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District was satisfied with the project’s design. Based on discussions at the March 5, 2020 South Truckee Meadows/Washoe Valley Citizens Advisory Board meeting, Mr. Krater felt the project was the best possible use of the subject property and would benefit the community. He hoped the request for extension would be approved by the Board.

County Clerk Nancy Parent advised the Board that Mr. Krater also provided written comments which would be placed on the record.

There was no public comment on this item.

Bill No. 1836 was introduced by Chair Lucey, and legal notice for final action of adoption was directed.

20-0215  AGENDA ITEM 20 Possible Closed Session for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations with Washoe County and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District per NRS 288.220.

Mr. Brown stated there was no need for a closed session.

20-0216  AGENDA ITEM 21 Public Comment.

Ms. Annemarie Grant provided her public comment via voicemail. She implored the Board to take their duty to protect inmates seriously during the novel coronavirus pandemic. She stated the health and safety of inmates was as important as the health and safety of anyone else. She appreciated the ability to submit public comments remotely and opined it should be adopted as policy for future meetings. She asked the Board not to fail their most vulnerable population again.

Per Chair Lucey’s request, Ms. Parent read public comments submitted by Ms. Diane Heirschberg via email; Ms. Parent advised a copy of the email would be placed on the record. Ms. Heirschberg thanked the Board for their efforts during the pandemic but expressed disappointment that visitors continued to travel to short-term rentals (STRs) in Incline Village and Crystal Bay despite stay-at-home orders, potentially bringing infection with them. She worried visits to the area would only increase as the weather improved. She requested the Health District order all individuals to self-isolate for 14 days after entering Washoe County from another state or by plane, with notice of this requirement posted inside each STR property and on all websites advertising STRs for rent. She also suggested
reminding visitors to bring food and cleaning supplies with them as they would not be able
to go to the market during that 14-day period, and to wear face coverings and gloves if they
did go to local grocery stores after the required self-isolation period.

20-0217 AGENDA ITEM 22 Announcements/Reports.

Vice Chair Berkbigler thanked Commissioner Jung for her positive
comments and expressed appreciation for the Commissioner’s experience weathering an
economic downturn. Vice Chair Berkbigler inquired as to the percentage of individuals in
the community who had been financially impacted by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)
pandemic. She said she also received many questions from constituents wanting to know
where cases were concentrated in the County and whether it was possible to provide this
information to the public without violating health information privacy laws. She wondered
about the relocation of Record Street shelter residents and how officials would know if
they had the virus or not.

Chair Lucey agreed Commissioner Jung’s experience would be helpful in
navigating the economic downturn. He stated the month of April was National Child Abuse
Prevention Month and, with more people staying home due to COVID-19, the possibility
of domestic violence was increasingly concerning. Because everyone faced a challenging
and stressful situation, he asked the community to check in with others more frequently.
He thanked the community’s first responders for their efforts and requested that everyone
who could stay home continue to do so for the sake of others as officials worked on the
plans to move forward safely.

Commissioner Hartung stated the County’s economy was heavily based in
tourism, and he noted Burning Man had been cancelled for 2020. He hoped Washoe County
could still have some events near the end of the summer, and he suggested an agenda item
be created to consider allowing parts of Rancho San Rafael Park to be made available as
overflow parking for Hot August Nights. He felt the Board should do whatever it could to
plan and prepare for all the ways in which COVID-19 might impact local events in the
coming months because they were a large part of the local economy.

* * * * * * * * * *
12:45 p.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

_____________________________
BOB LUCEY, Chair
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

_______________________________
NANCY PARENT, County Clerk and
Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

Minutes Prepared by:
LJ Burton, Deputy County Clerk