

**NEVADA COMMISSION FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE V&T RAILWAY**  
**Minutes of the Wednesday, October 25, 2023 Meeting**  
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**DRAFT**

A regular meeting of the Nevada Commission for the reconstruction of the V&T Railway was held at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, in the Community Center Robert “Bob” Crowell Boardroom, 851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada.

The meeting video is available on Carson City’s website by clicking on the link below:  
[https://carsoncity.granicus.com/player/clip/2318?view\\_id=2&redirect=true&h=4f8829aad63903c4cf67e58680682916](https://carsoncity.granicus.com/player/clip/2318?view_id=2&redirect=true&h=4f8829aad63903c4cf67e58680682916)

**PRESENT:** Chairperson David Peterson  
Vice Chair Clay Mitchell  
Treasurer Leah Kruse  
Secretary Stephanie Hicks  
Commissioner Michelle Schmitter

**STAFF:** Mihaela Neagos, Deputy District Attorney  
Cherrie Bailey, Executive Assistant  
Tamar Warren, Senior Deputy Clerk

**1 – 3. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

(9:00:55) – Chairperson Peterson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Vice Chair Mitchell joined the meeting at 9:03 a.m. Chairperson Peterson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

(9:01:43) – Chairperson Peterson entertained public comments. Deni French explained that he wished “to get to know more” by attending the Commission meetings.

**5. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 27, 2023 AND OCTOBER 13, 2023.**

(9:02:56) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item and entertained comments, changes, or corrections on the minutes which are incorporated into the record. He also entertained a motion.

(9:03:25) – **MOTION: Secretary Hicks moved to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2023 and the October 13, 2023 meetings as presented. The motion was seconded by Treasurer Kruse and carried 5-0-0.**

**6. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Discussion and possible action regarding the V&T Commission’s statement of accounts payable checks paid September 1-30, 2023.**

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(9:04:13) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item, referenced the statement incorporated into the record via the Staff Report, and entertained comments and/or questions. There were no additional comments; therefore, Chair Peterson entertained a motion.

**(9:04:38) – MOTION: Treasurer Kruse moved to approve the statement of accounts payable checks paid September 1-30, 2023 in the amount of \$56,716.78. The motion was seconded by Secretary Hicks and carried 5-0-0.**

Commissioner Schmitter was informed that the SNC payment was the first of the total amount to be paid.

**7. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE ADJUSTED V&T COMMISSION'S FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024 BUDGET REPORTS, PERIOD ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2023.**

(9:05:56) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item and entertained questions and/or comments regarding the Staff Report and supporting documentation, all of which are incorporated into the record. There were no commissioner comments. Chairperson Peterson entertained a motion.

**(9:07:12) – MOTION: Treasurer Kruse moved to approve the adjusted V&T Commission's Fiscal Year 2023/2024 budget reports, for the period ending on September 30, 2023. The motion was seconded by Secretary Hicks and carried 5-0-0.**

**8. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A PROPOSED AGREEMENT FOR ON-CALL INSPECTION SERVICES AND REPORTS FOR THE US 50 BRIDGE CROSSING, ALL CULVERTS ALONG THE ALIGNMENT, TUNNEL NO. 2, SLOPES AND DITCHES, AND THE OVERMAN EMBANKMENT WITH WOOD RODGERS, INC., FOR A NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$5,030, EFFECTIVE THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024.**

(9:07:48) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item and noted that there were proposed modifications by one of the principals in Section 10 (Indemnification and Defense) of the agreement which is incorporated into the record. The proposed change reflected limiting “the total liability to the value of services to be provided in the contract.” Vice Chair Mitchell also noted that the agreement referred to the Commission as “the State.” Ms. Neagos stated that it should be changed to “Commission” and offered to make that correction throughout the document. Chairperson Peterson entertained additional comments and when none were forthcoming, a motion.

**(9:13:13) – MOTION: Secretary Hicks moved to approve the proposed changes to the agreement for on-call inspection services and reports for the US 50 bridge crossing, all culverts along the alignment, Tunnel No. 2, slopes and ditches and the Overman Embankment with Wood Rodgers, Inc., for a not to exceed amount of \$5,030, effective through June 30, 2024. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Mitchell and carried 5-0-0.**

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**9. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY**

**MONTHLY NON-ACTION ITEMS**

**A. CHAIR UPDATE ON ENGAGEMENT WITH STATE OF NEVADA AGENCIES WITH COMMON GOALS AND OBJECTIVES REGARDING THE LONG-TERM VIABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE V&T COMMISSION.**

(9:14:29) – Chairperson Peterson noted that the State’s Division of Museums and History was in the process of replacing its director; therefore, no discussions had taken place recently.

**B. THE POLAR EXPRESS TRAIN RIDE PRODUCTION REPORT – Carla Wilson**

(9:15:02) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item. Ms. Wilson provided updates, explained that they had been “deep in rehearsal” which was going well, and noted that the Santas were all “in place.” She noted that they were still recruiting cast members for Five Nights at the North Pole, including on social media. Ms. Wilson was pleased with having a “green room” to warm up and announced that Rail Events would be reviewing the event on December 2, 2023. She also requested additional detail about the logistics of the November 16, 2023 dress rehearsal train, as four train cars would be utilized. Discussion ensued regarding the invitations to the members of the Reno Tahoe Territory and Chairperson Peterson expected about 75-100 attendees to the dress rehearsal. Ms. Wilson highlighted the lighting issues the previous year and Chair Peterson noted that Thomas Gray of Virginia & Truckee Railroad Company was working on it. She also cited the dates that needed volunteer groups to come and fill in and Vice Chair Mitchell offered to help with his family.

**C-D. OPERATIONS/TRAIN OPERATIONS REPORT – Thomas Gray, VTRR**

(9:36:06) – Candy Duncan reported in place of Mr. Gray that the last regular excursion train had rolled out the previous weekend, calling the season “successful” and “safe.” She recommended having the trains running for a few more weekends such as the Camel Races weekend, July 4<sup>th</sup>, and Nevada Day. Ms. Duncan also suggested having a waiting list. She stated that the movie *Killers of the Flower Moon* had “shots of the V&T” and recommended seeing it. Another music video would be filmed that week as well, according to Ms. Duncan, adding “we do have some good help coming” with THE POLAR EXPRESS, and was informed that the parking fee would be \$10. Vice Chair Mitchell suggested finding a way in the future to reach out to ticket holders to inform them of single ticket availability next to them. Further discussion ensued regarding reserved seating and Ms. Wilson cited the example of the Grand Canyon Railway seating arrangements and Ms. Duncan explained that assigned seating “works beautifully” now that the North Pole is set up on both sides of the train.

**E. UPCOMING MEETING:**

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**1. COMMISSION MEETING ON NOVEMBER 29, 2023, at 9:00 AM.**

(9:57:12) – Chairperson Peterson read the item into the record as a reminder and noted that the audit review would be agendized for that date.

**10. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

(9:58:17) – Commissioner Schmitter inquired about the “Drako [Way] Payment” and Ms. Neagos explained that she would provide an update at the next meeting.

**11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

(9:59:37) – Chairperson Peterson entertained final public comments. Mr. French called THE POLAR EXPRESS Train Ride Event discussion “entertaining” and “informative.”

**12. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO ADJOURN**

(10:00:27) – Chairperson Peterson adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

The Minutes of the October 25, 2023, Nevada Commission for the Reconstruction of the V&T Railway meeting are so approved this 29<sup>th</sup> day of November 2023.

*Stephanie A. Hicks*  
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STEPHANIE HICKS, Secretary