

# NEVADA COMMISSION FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE V&T RAILWAY

## Minutes of the Wednesday, January 24, 2024 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Nevada Commission for the reconstruction of the V&T Railway was held at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, 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/2360?view\\_id=2&redirect=true](https://carsoncity.granicus.com/player/clip/2360?view_id=2&redirect=true)

**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**

(9:01:10) – Chairperson Peterson called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Chairperson Peterson led the Pledge of Allegiance. He also requested a moment of silence in remembrance of Former Commission member and Chair Stan Jones.

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

(9:03:03) – Chairperson Peterson entertained public comments. Robert Thomasson referenced a previous meeting’s agenda item he had presented regarding a statue on the Commission’s property as a memorial to the Grosh Brothers. He invited the Commissioners to a site visit. Chair Peterson noted that the item would be discussed later on in the meeting.

#### **5. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 29, 2023, MEETING**

(9:04:03) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item and entertained comments or edits to the minutes. Commissioner Schmitter noted an error in the adjournment time which has since been corrected. She also inquired about a highlighted sentence on page 3 of the minutes and was informed by the Deputy Clerk that the highlights represented the Commission’s additions to the paragraph.

**(9:07:59) – MOTION: Secretary Hicks moved to approve the minutes of the November 29, 2024 meeting as corrected. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Mitchell and carried 5-0-0.**

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**6. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE V&T COMMISSION'S STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CHECKS PAID NOVEMBER 1-30,2023 AND DECEMBER 1-31, 2023**

(9:08:25) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item, referenced the Staff Report which is incorporated into the record, and entertained questions or a motion.

(9:09:45) – **MOTION:** Treasurer Kruse moved to approve the payable checks as recommended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmitter and carried 5-0-0.

**7. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE ADJUSTED V&T COMMISSION'S FISCAL YEAR ("FY") 2023/2024 BUDGET REPORTS, PERIOD ENDED NOVEMBER 1-30,2023 AND DECEMBER 1-31, 2023.**

(9:10:08) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item and referenced the Staff Report which is incorporated into the record. Ms. Bailey clarified that the shown revenue had been reconciled with the Comptroller through October 2023. The reconciliation through December had taken place; however, not in time for posting. She also responded to clarifying questions and explained that the revenue from the 3581 Drako Way, Carson City property would show up on the January report as "Equipment Sales." Chair Peterson explained that the Polar Express revenue would be reconciled in the next month, adding that the historical fees were also being reconciled. There were no additional comments; therefore, Chairperson Peterson entertained a motion.

(9:16:33) – **MOTION:** Treasurer Kruse moved to approve the presented budget reports [incorporated into the record]. The motion was seconded by Secretary Hicks and carried 5-0-0.

**8. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING THE POLAR EXPRESS 2023 SEASON INCLUDING UPDATES BY CHERRIE BAILEY, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE V&T COMMISSION, CARLA WILSON OF C.J. WILSON, LLC, THE POLAR EXPRESS THEATER PRODUCTION SERVICES PROVIDER FOR THE 2023 SEASON, AND THOMAS GRAY AND CANDY DUNCAN OF THE VIRGINIA TRUCKEE RAILROAD ("VTRR").**

(9:16:54) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item. Ms. Bailey and Candy Duncan, Sales and Marketing Coordinator at V&T Railroad, reviewed the report incorporated into the record as late material and responded to clarifying questions. Ms. Duncan clarified for Commissioner Schmitter that the total number of benches sold in coach was 4,736 (seating two passengers per bench) for a total of 8,611 passengers. Discussion ensued regarding the net impact of adding the fourth car and Chairperson Peterson instructed Ms. Bailey to have the information for discussion at the retreat. Commissioner Schmitter requested adding the parking issues to the retreat discussion and Chair Peterson wished to add the Depot decorations as a retreat topic. Ms. Duncan noted that adding the fourth car had caused restroom and parking issues; however, the season had been great. It was

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agreed not to add a Wednesday event and to look into a small increase in the price for next year, and the Commission praised the crew. This item was not agendaized for action.

**MONTHLY NON-ACTION ITEMS:**

**a. EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT UPDATE**

(9:33:36) – Ms. Bailey reported on the Grosh Brothers memorial statue, noting that no permit would be required and that the Historical District supported the project (with approval rights). She noted that Mr. Thomasson was working with a surveyor to identify the V&T property boundaries for placement and had invited the Commission to a site visit. Ms. Neagos recommended that the Commissioners visit the site individually or in pairs in order not to violate the Open Meeting Law. She also clarified that this was a discussion item, and no direction could be given to Mr. Thomasson. Commissioner Kruse offered her assistance since she worked in the area.

(9:38:56) – Ms. Bailey reviewed the Fall 2023 billboard, online, and television ad campaigns, incorporated into the record, noting that the latter had resulted in 2.9 million impressions. Chairperson Peterson requested a full review by Deitz Media and Marketing at the retreat. Ms. Bailey explained that the social media followers had exceeded 17,000 individuals. Chair Peterson explained that direction would be given to the social media agency after the retreat and the February meeting.

**b. OPERATIONS/TRAINS REPORT**

(9:44:18) – Ms. Duncan noted that Thomas Gray, Manager and Owner of the V&T Railroad Co. was working on the equipment and would have information on Rail Bikes at the retreat.

**c. UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

**1. POSSIBLE DATES FOR THE FEBRUARY 2024 SPECIAL WORKSHOP/RETREAT**

(9:45:52) – Ms. Bailey proposed several dates that were available at Adams Hub for the retreat and the Commission agreed to hold it on Friday, February 16, 2024, after the Carson City Board of Supervisors' Canvass the Vote meeting.

**2. COMMISSION MEETING ON FEBRUARY 28, 2024 AT 9:00 AM**

(9:51:30) – Chairperson Peterson read the item into the record.

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

(9:51:49) – Vice Chair Mitchell informed the Commission that he had provided clarifying public comment as a private citizen during the Carson City Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) meeting regarding its Local Roads Funding agenda item, in response to a comment on the Commission's financials, which he believed was misrepresented. Chairperson Peterson announced that the 2024 Commission meetings would be held on the fourth Wednesday of each

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month, except in the month of November which coincided with the Thanksgiving holiday. Treasurer Kruse announced that she had been contacted by the organizers of Mark Twain Days which would include Virginia City. Chairperson Peterson noted that the event would be taken over by the Brewery Arts Center.

**CLOSED NON-MEETING TO CONFER WITH OPERATIONS MANAGER AND COUNSEL.**

This item did not take place.

**10. PUBLIC COMMENT**

(9:56:58) – Chairperson Peterson entertained final public comments. Mr. Thomasson informed the Commission that a cost would be associated with the survey and wished the item agendaized. Chair Peterson suggested placing the item on the agenda for the February meeting.

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

(9:58:30) – Chairperson Peterson adjourned the meeting at 9:58 a.m.

The Minutes of January 24, 2024, Nevada Commission for the Reconstruction of the V&T Railway meeting are so approved this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024.

*Stephanie A. Hicks*

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STEPHANIE HICKS, Secretary