

NEVADA COMMISSION FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE V&T RAILWAY

Minutes of the Wednesday, April 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, April 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/2430?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

(9:01:35) – 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.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

(9:02:25) – Chairperson Peterson entertained public comments. Bob Thomasson informed the Commission that he had been made aware that the survey for the property to house the memorial for the Grosh Brothers did not have to be a prerequisite for the easement, and believed that the “property is suitable for the monument.”

5. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 27, 2024 MEETING

(9:05:43) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item and entertained comments or edits to the minutes.

(9:05:57) – **MOTION: Secretary Hicks moved to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2024 meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Mitchell 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 MARCH 1-31, 2024.

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(9:06:19) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item and referenced the information in the Staff Report which is incorporated into the record. There were no comments; therefore, he entertained a motion.

(9:06:55) – **MOTION:** Treasurer Kruse moved to approve the payable checks from March 1, 2024, through March 31, 2024. The motion was seconded by Secretary Hicks 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 MARCH 1-31,2024.

(9:07:20) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item and reviewed the Staff Report which included the 2023-2024 Budget Report, incorporated into the record. He also entertained comments and when none were forthcoming, a motion.

(9:07:55) – **MOTION:** Treasurer Kruse moved to approve the V&T Commission’s adjusted Fiscal Year (FY) 2023/2024 budget reports period ended March 31, 2024. The motion was seconded by Secretary Hicks and carried 5-0-0.

8. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF A MEMORIAL STATUE OF GROSH BROTHERS (“THE STATUE”) ON PROPERTY OWNED BY THE V&T COMMISSION.

(9:08:22) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item and noted that the late material, incorporated into the record, would be considered for this item. Commissioner Schmitter provided an update on the results of a records search of historic buildings and sites in a 50-meter radius of V&T Commission-owned parcels in Gold Hill. Vice Chair Mitchell noted that because the Bank of California building “topographically is lower down the hill, so there’s really not a lot of conflict or interaction spatially between it and the proposed site.” He believed that the Historic District would be able to provide scale and location advice to ensure appropriateness. Based on a question from Commissioner Schmitter, Vice Chair Mitchell noted that Storey County was planning on a much broader survey and it might not be conducted this fiscal year. He also suggested agendizing a discussion on the concept of “moving forward with other elements of this project prior to surveying to see if there is an appropriate path to keep it moving forward” or if an exact location confirmation should be required. Mr. Thomasson offered to review location suggestions as he was now aware of the property lines. Secretary Hicks suggested providing Mr. Thomasson with tools such as “right of entry to get you on the property without an exact location.” No action was taken on this item.

9. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT BY STOREY COUNTY OF AN ELIMINATION OF A LIABILITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000, REPRESENTING A ONE-TIME GRANT THE V&T COMMISSION AGREED TO CONTRIBUTE TO

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MATCH STOREY COUNTY’S \$250,000 GRANT FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE OLD FREIGHT DEPOT IN VIRGINIA CITY, ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER 001-096-02 (“LIABILITY”), PURSUANT TO AN INTERLOCAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT, DATED MAY 20, 2010, AND DIRECTION TO STAFF TO REMOVE THE LIABILITY FROM THE APPROPRIATE ACCOUNTING RECORDS.

(9:23:30) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item and reviewed the Staff Report which is incorporated into the record. Vice Chair Mitchell provided background and explained that during the two previous audits, a liability was discovered and attributed to the Commission. He noted that after having it reviewed by the Comptroller and the District Attorney of Storey County it was determined that the commitment made in the 2010 agreement represented a one-time grant that the V&T Commission had agreed to contribute to match Storey County’s \$250,000 grant for the purchase of the old freight depot in Virginia City (Assessor Parcel Number 001-096-02) was satisfied. Chair Peterson thanked Vice Chair Mitchell for his hard work. There were no Commission and/or public comments; therefore, the Chair entertained a motion.

(9:26:46) – MOTION: Secretary Hicks moved to approve the elimination of the \$250,000 debt to Storey County and direct staff to remove the Liability from the accounting records, as discussed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmitter and carried 5-0-0.

10. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A PROPOSED RETROACTIVE AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT FOR SERVICES OF INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR, FY 24-C004, WITH C.J. WILSON, LLC FOR THE POLAR EXPRESS THEATER PRODUCTION SERVICES (“CONTRACT”), EXERCISING THE OPTION TO RENEW THE CONTRACT FOR THREE ADDITIONAL YEARS, EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2024 TO JANUARY 31, 2027, UNDER THE SAME TERMS AND CONDITIONS, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$115,775.00 PER YEAR OR \$347,325.000 FOR THREE YEARS, AND A TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$463,100.00.

(9:30:27) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item and reviewed the Staff Report which is incorporated into the record. Carla Wilson of C.J. Wilson, LLC stated that she was “looking forward to continuing on and making this a great tradition for our community.” Ms. Bailey confirmed for Ms. Wilson that the retroactive contract amendment she had presented had been incorporated into the late material and posted as part of the agenda materials. The Commission agreed to review additional amendments, if necessary, in the future. There were no Commissioner or public comments. Chair Peterson entertained a motion.

(9:34:17) – MOTION: Vice Chair Mitchell moved to approve the retroactive amendment of the contract with C.J. Wilson LLC as proposed. The motion was seconded by Treasurer Kruse and carried 5-0-0.

11. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY:

MONTHLY NON-ACTION ITEMS:

a. EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT UPDATE

(9:35:02) – Ms. Bailey announced that ticket sales had begun mid-March 2024, adding that the Mark Twain Days tickets had not been selling as fast as anticipated; however, she hoped that a television spot on Channel Four would raise the awareness of the event. Ms. Bailey also noted that the Mother’s Day tickets were selling fast. She was hopeful that the Facebook ads would generate additional sales. Treasurer Kruse explained that the Virginia City Tourism Commission had not “pushed anything train-related yet,” but they had planned on promoting it. At Chair Peterson’s request, Treasurer Kruse offered to look into the promotional efforts on the Highway 80 corridor and report back. Ms. Bailey also reviewed upcoming events scheduled for Memorial Weekend and beyond and updated the Commission on the ticket designs that would be used. Treasurer Kruse noted that one of the train depot shuttles was not ADA-compliant; however, two large coaches would provide ADA-accessibility during Mark Twain Days. She added that St. Mary’s Art Center and the Territorial Enterprise building were not ADA-accessible either.

b. OPERATIONS/TRAINS REPORT

(9:45:25) – V&T Railroad (VTRR) Sales and Marketing Coordinator Candy Duncan noted that today was the inspection date for Engine No. 18; therefore, VTRR President Tom Gray could not be at this meeting. She also noted that Mark Twain Days tickets had started to sell, adding that in general, on slow days, a train car could be eliminated. Ms. Duncan responded to clarifying questions and informed the Commission that she had spoken with Mr. Gray to get some necessary work done at the train depot. Treasurer Kruse suggested getting together with the Virginia City Tourism Commission to plan cross-marketing opportunities. Vice Chair Mitchell believed that reducing the number of cars was preferable to having trains look empty. Chair Peterson updated the Commission on the track maintenance efforts and believed “we’re going to be in a good place.”

c. UPCOMING MEETINGS:

1. THE NEXT V&T COMMISSION MEETING AND FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025 BUDGET HEARING ARE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024 AT 9:00 AM

(9:57:30) – Chairperson Peterson read the upcoming meeting date into the record.

12. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION.

(9:57:57) – Commissioner Schmitter inquired about the status of the pamphlets to be placed on train seats and Ms. Bailey stated that they would be available in the week after Memorial Day. Treasurer Kruse stated that during Mark Twain days, a newspaper-style program would be distributed. Chair Peterson announced receipt of a grant from the Nevada Commission on Tourism for the redesign of the website.

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

This item did not take place.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

(10:00:20) – Chairperson Peterson entertained final public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

14. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO ADJOURN

(10:00:38) – Chairperson Peterson adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

The Minutes of April 24, 2024, Nevada Commission for the Reconstruction of the V&T Railway meeting are so approved on this 22nd day of May 2024.

Stephanie A. Hicks
STEPHANIE HICKS, Secretary