

NEVADA COMMISSION FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE V&T RAILWAY

Minutes of the Wednesday, June 26, 2024 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Nevada Commission for the reconstruction of the V&T Railway was scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 26, 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/2469?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

(9:02:19) – Chairperson Peterson called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Chairperson Peterson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

(9:04:13) – Chairperson Peterson entertained public comments; however, none were forthcoming.

5. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY 22, 2024 MEETING

(9:04:24) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item and entertained comments, edits, or a motion.

(9:04:40) – MOTION: Secretary Hicks moved to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2024 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmitter 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 MAY 1-31, 2024.

(9:05:02) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item and referenced the information presented as late material in the Staff Report, which is incorporated into the record. There were no comments; therefore, he entertained a motion. Vice Chair Mitchell highlighted that “a couple of bank drafts that were also recorded in this report, bringing the total amount of disbursements to \$79,668.47.”

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Ms. Bailey noted that she had not had the final check register at the time of the agenda posting. Treasurer Kruse amended her motion to reflect the new amount.

(9:06:47) – MOTION: Treasurer Kruse moved to approve the payable checks totaling \$79,668.47, from May 1, 2024, through May 31, 2024. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Mitchell 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 May 1-31, 2024.

(9:07:17) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item and reviewed the Staff Report which is incorporated into the record. He also highlighted additional revenue that would appear on the June statement as part of FY 2024 for discussion during the July meeting. There were no public comments.

(9:09:51) – MOTION: Treasurer Kruse moved to approve the Budget Reports as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Mitchell and carried 5-0-0.

(9:10:15) – Chair Peterson announced that item 9 would be heard before item 8.

8. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING WEBSITE DESIGN AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024, TO JUNE 30, 2028, UTILIZING STATE OF NEVADA JOINDER CONTRACT 99SWC-NV23-17886 WITH KPS3, FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$56,750.00.

(9:14:42) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item and introduced marketing and digital communications firm KPS3’s Andy Walden, Vice President of Client Strategy, who was present remotely. He also noted that the Commission would utilize the State of Nevada joinder contract 99SWC-NV23-17886 with KPS3 with solicitation number 99SWC-S2340, with an expiration date of June 30, 2027, and an option to renew for two additional years. Mr. Walde thanked the Commission for the opportunity. All of the above information is incorporated into the record. There were no Commissioner or public comments; therefore, Chair Peterson entertained a motion.

(9:20:15) – MOTION: Secretary Hicks moved to approve the joinder contract as proposed. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Mitchell and carried 5-0-0.

9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO AUGMENT AND AMEND THE V&T COMMISSION FISCAL YEAR (“FY”) 2023-2024 BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$81,100, PURSUANT TO NRS 354.598005.

(9:10:24) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item. Storey County Comptroller Jennifer McCain reviewed the proposed budget augmentation incorporated into the record, and

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recommended adopting the proposed resolution for approval of the augmentation. There were no public comments.

(9:14:03) – MOTION: Vice Chair Mitchell moved to approve Resolution No. 2024-R-01. The motion was seconded by Treasurer Kruse and carried 5-0-0.

10. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT FOR SERVICES OF INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR, FY 24-C007, WITH AUMADA MARKETING, LLC ALSO KNOWN AS LUMONT MEDIA (“CONTRACT”), EXTENDING THE CONTRACT FOR THREE ADDITIONAL YEARS, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024 TO JUNE 30, 2027, UNDER THE SAME TERMS AND CONDITIONS, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$13,500.00 PER YEAR OR \$54,000.00 FOR THE THREE-YEAR RENEWAL PERIOD, AND A TOTAL AMENDED AMOUNT OF THE CONTRACT NOT EXCEED \$67,500.00.

(9:20:55) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item and noted that the Commission’s actions would be based on the revised late material, incorporated into the record. There were no Commissioner or public comments; therefore, Chair Peterson entertained a motion.

(9:22:51) – MOTION: Secretary Hicks moved to approve the amendment of the contract as proposed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmitter and carried 5-0-0.

11. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT FOR SERVICES OF INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR, FY 24-C002, WITH DEITZ MEDIA & MARKETING, LLC (“CONTRACT”), EXTENDING THE CONTRACT FOR THREE ADDITIONAL YEARS, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024 TO JUNE 30, 2027, UNDER THE SAME TERMS AND CONDITIONS, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$7,500.00 PER YEAR OR \$22,500.00 FOR THE THREE-YEAR RENEWAL PERIOD, AND A TOTAL AMENDED AMOUNT OF THE CONTRACT NOT EXCEED \$37,500.00.

(9:23:20) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item and introduced Melissa Deitz of Deitz Media and Marketing. He also highlighted the Contract extension terms, incorporated into the record, for three additional years, effective July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2027, under the same terms and conditions, for an amount not to exceed \$7,500.00 per year or \$22,500.00 for the three-year renewal period, with the total amended amount not to exceed \$37,500.00. He also noted that a review of the media buys would take place during the July 2024 Commission meeting. There were no additional Commissioner or public comments. Chair Peterson entertained a motion. Secretary Hicks noted for the record that the Commission was moving through the contracts “rather quickly” because of the preliminary efforts conducted by Chair Peterson and Deputy District Attorney Neagos.

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(9:25:43) – MOTION: Vice Chair Mitchell moved to approve the amendment of the contract as proposed. The motion was seconded by Treasurer Kruse and carried 5-0-0.

12. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT FOR SERVICES OF INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR, FY 24-C003, WITH CHERYL BAILEY (“CONTRACT”), EXTENDING THE CONTRACT FOR ONE ADDITIONAL YEAR, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024 TO JUNE 30, 2025, UNDER THE SAME TERMS AND CONDITIONS, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$60,000.00 PER YEAR, AND A TOTAL AMENDED AMOUNT OF THE CONTRACT NOT EXCEED \$110,000.00.

(9:26:58) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item and noted that the one-year extension, incorporated into the record, did not change from the previous year. Chair Peterson entertained Commissioner or public comments and when none were forthcoming, a motion.

(9:29:22) – MOTION: Secretary Hicks moved to approve the amendment of the contract as proposed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmitter and carried 5-0-0.

13. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A PROPOSED CONTRACT NO. FY25- C001, WITH VIRGINIA AND TRUCKEE RAILROAD (“VTRR”) (“CONTRACT”), FOR OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT AT THE CARSON CITY EASTGATE DEPOT, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$95,000.00 PER FISCAL YEAR 2025.

(9:30:01) – Chair Peterson introduced the item and referenced the agenda materials which are incorporated into the record. He also thanked President Tom Gray and Sales and Marketing Coordinator Candy Duncan of the Virginia and Truckee Railroad (VTRR) Company, Inc., noting that the contract would be for a one-year term. There were no Commissioner and public comments; therefore, Chair Peterson entertained a motion.

(8:31:58) – MOTION: Vice Chair Mitchell moved to award the Contract to VTRR. The motion was seconded by Secretary Hicks and carried 5-0-0.

14. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING PROPOSED AMENDMENT #2 TO AGREEMENT FOR LEGAL SERVICES WITH CARSON CITY DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE (“AGREEMENT”), EXTENDING THE AGREEMENT FOR AN ADDITIONAL ONE-YEAR TERM UNDER THE SAME TERMS AND CONDITIONS, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000 PER YEAR.

(9:32:35) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item and thanked Ms. Neagos and the Carson City District Attorney’s Office for the legal services they provide to the Commission adding that there were no changes to the terms and conditions of the agreement from the previous year, all of which is incorporated into the record. Ms. Neagos thanked the Commission for their cooperation as well.

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Chair Peterson entertained Commission or public comments and when none were forthcoming, a motion.

(9:34:42) – MOTION: Treasurer Kruse moved to approve the amendment of the Agreement as proposed. The motion was seconded by Secretary Hicks and carried 5-0-0.

15. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION, PRESENTATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A REPORT AND VISUAL INSPECTION OF THE V&T RAILWAYS AND V&T RAILWAY BRIDGE (G-2898) CONDUCTED BY WOOD RODGERS.

(9:35:05) – Chairperson Peterson introduced the item. Wood Rodgers Project Manager Jim Koch provided a summary of the inspection, incorporated into the record, and highlighted the immediate issues that needed to be addressed (also incorporated into the record). Mr. Koch also responded to clarifying questions by the Commissioners. Chair Peterson entertained public comments and when none were forthcoming, a motion.

(9:50:09) – MOTION: Vice Chair Mitchell moved to accept the report and to direct staff to make corrective actions as discussed on the record. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmitter and carried 5-0-0.

16. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY:

MONTHLY NON-ACTION ITEMS:

a. EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT UPDATE

(9:51:01) – Ms. Bailey reported on the Fathers’ Day train events and noted that the new tickets would be available in July. She also explained that the souvenir newspapers would not be done this year; however, they were planned for next year due to time constraints. Ms. Bailey highlighted the upcoming wine trains with details to follow at the July meeting and stated that an inspection of the Canyon was also scheduled in July.

b. OPERATIONS/TRAINS REPORT

(9:54:25) – VTRR President Tom Gray noted that the North Pole needed “quite a bit of rail servicing,” adding that some of the signs were not as visible at night. Chair Peterson asked Mr. Gray to help prioritize the maintenance items and suggested seeking assistance from Storey County via the FY 2026 budget. Mr. Gray expressed concern about the dry terrain and fire danger and listed the “small repairs” that were planned, noting that the diesel trains were not “as popular.” He also explained that a film crew was interested in utilizing the trains and stated that they were interested in moving a train to Montana for a shoot. Mr. Gray discussed the upcoming holiday lights and the Polar Express events and the preparations required for them. Chair Peterson wished to discuss the film opportunities at the Commission’s July meeting.

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(10:07:03) – VTRR Sales and Marketing Coordinator Candy Duncan stated that most of the riders on the diesel train are out-of-town visitors. She recommended having a promotion involving the diesel train, highlighting a proposed “VIP Family Lounge” to keep families together. Ms. Duncan reported that the coffee donation cup was stolen recently. Treasurer Kruse updated the Commission on the shuttle from the train depot to ensure passengers have the means to “get where they want to go.”

c. UPCOMING MEETINGS:

1. COMMISSION MEETING ON JULY 24, 2024, at 9:00 AM

(10:14:01) – Chairperson Peterson read the upcoming meeting date into the record.

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

(10:14:34) – Vice Chair Mitchell reported on a presentation to an interim committee of the Nevada Legislature regarding the history, operations, and challenges of the V&T.

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

This item did not take place.

18. PUBLIC COMMENT

(10:15:22) – Chairperson Peterson entertained final public comments. Robert Thomasson inquired about a meeting regarding a statue on the Commission’s property as a memorial to the Grosh Brothers and Chair Peterson offered to speak with Mr. Thomasson after the meeting since the item was not properly agendaized.

19. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO ADJOURN

(10:16:52) – Chairperson Peterson adjourned the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

The Minutes of June 26, 2024, Nevada Commission for the Reconstruction of the V&T Railway meeting are so approved on this 24th day of July 2024.

Stephanie A. Hicks
STEPHANIE HICKS, Secretary