

1 The Honorable Board of Lander County Commissioners met in
2 special session in the Commission Chambers of the Lander County
3 Courthouse and Administration Building in Battle Mountain,
4 Nevada, 50 State Route 305, on February 15, 2018, at 2:58 p.m.
5 Transcript produced by Tiffany Elkington, C.C.R., #930.
6

7 **PRESENT: PATSY WAITS, COMMISSIONER**
8 **SEAN BAKKER, COMMISSIONER**
9 **ART CLARK III, COMMISSIONER**
10 **DOUG MILLS, COMMISSIONER**
11 **JUDIE ALLAN, COMMISSIONER**
12 **KEITH WESTENGARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
13 **SADIE SULLIVAN, COUNTY CLERK**
14 **THEODORE HERRERA, DISTRICT ATTORNEY**
15

16
17 (Let the record reflect the presence of a quorum of five
18 commissioners. Let the record reflect the presence of Austin
19 via teleconference.)
20

21
22 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- the Lander County --
23 DISTRICT ATTORNEY HERRERA: (Indiscernible.)
24 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- Commission meeting, Town Board of
25 Battle Mountain --
26 DISTRICT ATTORNEY HERRERA: (Indiscernible.)
27 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- and Austin, Board of County Highway
28 Commissioners, --
29 DISTRICT ATTORNEY HERRERA: (Indiscernible.)
30 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- January 15, 2018.
31 DISTRICT ATTORNEY HERRERA: (Indiscernible.)
32 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: February.
33 DISTRICT ATTORNEY HERRERA: (Indiscernible.)
34 CHAIRMAN MILLS: February 15, --
35 DISTRICT ATTORNEY HERRERA: (Indiscernible.)
36 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- 2018.
37 DISTRICT ATTORNEY HERRERA: (Indiscernible.)
38 CHAIRMAN MILLS: I do that all the time.
39 We'd like to begin with -- begin with the Pledge of
40 Allegiance.

1 Sean, will you lead us.

2
3 (Pledge of Allegiance)

4
5 CHAIRMAN MILLS: We'd like a moment of silence, please.

6
7 (Moment of Silence)

8
9 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Thank you.

10 Lander County Commissioners may break for dinner from
11 5:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

12 Any agenda item may be taken out of order or may be combined
13 for consideration by the public body, and items may be pulled or
14 removed from the agenda at any time.

15
16
17 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

18
19 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Public comment for nonagendized items
20 only.

21 Persons are invited to submit comment in writing and/or
22 attend and make comment on any nonagenda item at -- at the board
23 meeting, if any, and discussion of those comments at the
24 discretion of the board. All public comment may be limited to
25 three minutes per person, again at the discretion of the board.
26 Reasonable restrictions may be placed on public comment based
27 upon time, place, and manner, but public comment based upon
28 viewpoint may not be restricted.

29 Do we have any public comment?

30 (No comment.)
31
32

33 **CONSENT AGENDA**

34
35 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Okay. We'll move to consent agenda.

36 All matters listed under the consent agenda are considered
37 routine and may be acted upon by the Board of County Commissioners
38 with one action, without extensive discussion. Any member of the
39 board or any citizen may request that any item be taken from the
40 consent agenda, discussed, and acted upon separately during this

1 meeting. Consent agenda materials are available at the -- at the
2 Lander County Clerk's Office for viewing, and copies are available
3 for a nominal charge.

4 One, approval of February 15, 2018, agenda notice; two,
5 approval of January 25, 2018, meeting minutes.

6 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: I'll make a motion we approve the
7 February 15, 2018, agenda notice.

8 COMMISSIONER WAITS: I'll second the motion.

9 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Okay. Judie made a motion. Patsy
10 seconded.

11 Do we have any public comment?

12 (No comment.)

13 CHAIRMAN MILLS: All in favor?

14 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Aye.

15 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: Aye.

16 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Aye.

17 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Aye.

18 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Aye.

1 COMMISSIONERS

- 2
- 3 (1) Discussion only regarding duties, successes, accomplishments,
- 4 suggestions, and goals within Lander County for each of the
- 5 following towns, offices, and departments: a) Executive
- 6 Director; b) Assessor; c) Clerk; d) District Attorney; e)
- 7 District Court; f) Sheriff; g) Treasurer; h) Recorder; i)
- 8 Town of Austin; j) Town of Kingston; k) Ag Extension; l)
- 9 Battle Mountain Volunteer Fire Department; m) Building; n)
- 10 Community Health Nurse; o) Planning; p) Public Works; q)
- 11 Recreation; r) Lander County Board of Equalization; s) Lander
- 12 County Convention & Tourism Authority; t) Lander County Debt
- 13 Management Commission; u) Lander County Planning Commission;
- 14 v) Lander County Regional Transportation Commission; w)
- 15 Lander County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife; x) Austin
- 16 Airport Advisory Board; y) Battle Mountain Livestock Events
- 17 Center Advisory Board; z) Local Emergency Planning
- 18 Commission; aa) Lander County Economic Development Authority;
- 19 bb) Lander County Public Lands Use Advisory Planning
- 20 Commission; cc) Lander County Conservation District; dd)
- 21 Lander County Hospital District; ee) Lander County EMS; ff)
- 22 Lander County Board of Commissioners; and all other matters
- 23 properly related thereto.
- 24

25 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Okay. Item Number 1. Discussion only

26 regarding duties, successes, accomplishments, suggestions, and

27 goals within Lander County for each of the following towns,

28 offices, and departments: 1 -- or a) Executive Director; b)

29 Assessor; c) Clerk; d) District Attorney; e) District Court; f)

30 Sheriff; g) Treasurer; h) Recorder; i) Town of Austin; j) Town

31 of Kingston; k) Ag Extension; l) Battle Mountain Volunteer Fire

32 Department; m) Building; n) Community Health Nurse; o) Planning;

33 p) Public Works; q) Recreation; r) Lander County Board of

34 Equalization; s) Lander County Convention & Tourism --

35 Convention & Tourism Authority; t) Lander County Debt Management

36 Commission; u) Lander County Planning Commission; v) Lander

37 County Regional Transportation Committee; w) Lander County

38 Advisory Board on -- to Manage Wildlife; x) Austin Airport

39 Advisory Board; y) Battle Mountain Livestock Events Center

40 Advisory Board; z) Local Emergency Planning Commission; aa)

1 Lander County Economic Development Authority; bb) Lander County
2 Econom- -- Lander County Public Land Use Advisory Planning
3 Commission; cc) Lander County Con- -- Conservation District; dd)
4 Lander County Hospital District; ee) Lander County EMS; ff)
5 Lander County Board of Commissioners; and all other matters
6 properly related thereto.

7 So before we begin, I just want to make a comment.

8 I know this is the first time we've ever done anything like
9 this that I'm aware of. And I appreciate you taking your time to
10 be here.

11 I think this is really important to the county. I'm
12 looking forward to this discussion that we're going to have this
13 evening -- this afternoon and probably evening.

14 It -- I -- I really look forward to this opportunity for the
15 county to come together to share the things that we are doing, the
16 things we do, things we plan on doing.

17 I hope you take this opportunity to -- as -- as you come up
18 and discuss your -- each of your departments and your
19 responsibilities that you take this opportunity to show your best
20 light, the things that you're doing that -- that are going well
21 for the county, and what you plan on doing. I'm -- I really would
22 like, as each of the other groups listen to you, that they take
23 the opportunity to gain more understanding of the things that
24 happen in our county.

25 There are many and varied things that happen here. And I
26 hope you take opportunity to listen. And if there's something
27 that you could do to help in -- with -- with other departments,
28 with other groups, with other boards, that you take advantage and
29 -- and share those things that you could help with those other
30 groups.

31 One other item is this -- this is an election year. And we
32 do some elected officials. This might be an opportunity for you
33 to take advantage of this also.

34 Let's begin with the executive director.

35 KEITH WESTENGARD: Okay. So I'd like to start out with a
36 little bit about the administration department.

37 My department -- of course, we have the finance section; HR,
38 the human resources is in that department. We have -- I have
39 Building and Planning, the Road and Bridge, the Senior Center, and
40 as well as EMS.

1 With that, I'd like to talk a little bit about some of the
2 projects that we worked on this year.

3 One of those -- and I know it's been long in coming but is
4 the Kingston fire truck. We -- we started this project over a
5 year ago. It's been long -- long haul, and without the support of
6 the commission; as well as the district attorney, and the Road and
7 Bridge Department, the public works director and his crew, this --
8 this wouldn't have happened.

9 We are literally within weeks of that fire truck being
10 delivered to Kingston. It's -- right now it's getting the
11 lighting put on it. It's a Type 6 fire truck. That -- that fire
12 truck came in at about \$127,000, which is -- is a very reasonable
13 price.

14 For the Kingston, I hope they're going to really enjoy it and
15 -- and use it wisely.

16 Another big success that -- that we've had is Austin EMS.
17 The EMS in Austin has been on a -- kind of a spiral for the last
18 several years -- or previous to the last year and a half, it's
19 been on a down- -- downward spiral.

20 Kim -- there she is in the back. She's really taken the
21 Austin EMS program up several notches. And I'm real proud of what
22 -- of what she's done.

23 We purchased a new ambulance last year for Austin for
24 southern Lander County. We are going to receive another new
25 ambulance in southern Lander County, probably within the next two
26 months.

27 These -- both these pieces of equipment -- and I don't want
28 to take too much thunder away from Kim. But both of these pieces
29 of equipment are top-notch. And they're -- they're equipped with
30 state-of-the-art equipment for southern Lander County.

31 We are looking at, in the budget, another ambulance, another
32 new ambulance for Battle Mountain area, to upgrade that fleet as
33 well.

34 Our airports, we've done a lot of work, spent millions of
35 dollars on our airports over the last several years.

36 We're in the process of new hangars at the airport. That's
37 something we're looking at doing this fiscal year, between this
38 fiscal year and next fiscal year.

39 We're going put a water line out there. That's going to help
40 what we hope to see sometime in the future as an industrial park

1 possibly.

2 We have some -- some big companies looking at coming to the
3 area, which could create some -- some -- some job and some growth
4 for Lander County.

5 We put fuel in both Austin and Battle Mountain Airports.

6 We're in the process of getting Jet A fuel in Austin, which
7 is going to be a big help for the BLM, the air tankers during fire
8 season as well as our medical air transports.

9 One of our big successes, I think, this year was putting
10 Cindy Benson in as our fiscal officer, moving Laken Marine up to
11 Cindy's position in our -- in our payroll department. And we
12 hired Heidi. Where is Heidi at? Is she not --

13 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: (Indiscernible.)

14 KEITH WESTENGARD: Oh, she's in the office. Somebody's got
15 to watch the office, I guess.

16 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: I would agree.

17 KEITH WESTENGARD: But Cindy's worked very hard on our
18 audit. And I'm -- I am thankful for that because we were in --
19 I -- I don't know if anybody knew this. We were days away from
20 a financial emergency with the State of Nevada, which is bad.

21 Cindy worked her (indiscernible) -- her backside off for
22 that.

23 And -- and I really appreciate that, Cindy. And if you have
24 anything that you'd like to add, feel free. If that's okay?

25 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Uh-huh.

26 CINDY BENSON: I would just like to thank everybody for
27 their support. It's been -- it's been good.

28 KEITH WESTENGARD: We -- we -- Building and Planning
29 Department back there with Anna. She's working real hard to
30 make sure that we have all our building permits in line, that
31 the inspections are done properly and timely. And I -- I
32 appreciate that. Anna, she's worked real hard with that.

33 I'm not going to take Bert's time because he's -- he's got
34 his own time coming up. So I won't say anything about --

35 BERT RAMOS: Well, have at it, buddy.

36 KEITH WESTENGARD: -- it.

37 No. No.

38 One thing I do want to touch on, I was warned by the
39 chairman not to talk too long because I could go on for quite a
40 bit -- quite a while here.

1 But a little bit about how our agenda process works and
2 what it -- what it entails. What happens with our agenda
3 process is we receive an agenda request from an individual or --
4 or entity that wants to be on our agenda, the county commission
5 agenda. Then we have an agenda setting.

6 When we have those agenda settings, it includes myself, the
7 chair, the vice chair, the district attorney -- Jeanne sits on
8 those -- Miteshell, and Nilla.

9 Each item is discussed. It's put on the agenda. The
10 wording that -- that's put on the agenda is -- is approved by
11 the DA, like, by Ted here.

12 And then that's -- that's how our agendas are formed.
13 It's -- it's a -- it's quite a lengthy process. The chairman has
14 the final say on what is on the agenda or what's -- what stays on
15 and is taken off of the agenda. And that's how these meetings are
16 formed.

17 With that being said, one -- one department I did forget was
18 our recreational center. And Robin just walked in. And that's a
19 pretty -- pretty huge success there, I think.

20 Our rec center was completed last year, as everybody knows,
21 in July.

22 Next -- next week Robin's got quite an update, unless she's
23 got a little something she'd like to say now just to touch on a
24 few things about the recreation center.

25 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: She has a spot.

26 CHAIRMAN MILLS: She has -- she has a spot on the list.

27 KEITH WESTENGARD: Oh, does -- she does too, doesn't she?

28 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Yeah.

29 KEITH WESTENGARD: Okay. So I won't talk -- I won't
30 talk too much. I think a lot of the departments that -- that
31 fall under the administration do.

32 Anyway, that's -- that's a brief overview of -- of how some
33 of my responsibilities and -- and the agendas and so forth. It
34 seems agendas are -- are quite a big deal, which they are. Don't
35 get me wrong. But a lot of work does go into them. And sometimes
36 there are mistakes made, but we try to make them as -- as flawless
37 as possible.

38 So with that being said, I don't know if anybody has any
39 questions for me? Or you want to just --

40 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Yeah.

1 KEITH WESTENGARD: -- how do you want to do it, --
2 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Any --
3 KEITH WESTENGARD: -- Mr. Chairman?
4 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- comments before we move on to the
5 assessor?
6 Okay. Let's move on to the Assessor's Office.
7 If you'd -- yeah, if you'd come up forward, please. That way
8 the microphone will pick you up.
9 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Didn't think you were getting off
10 that easy, Donna?
11 DONNA STIENMETZ: I'm going to hide.
12 Okay.
13 Donna Stienmetz. I'm the senior deputy assessor. And I'm
14 here on behalf of Lura Duvall who is our assessor, who has a sore
15 throat.
16 Basically, in the Assessor's Office a lot of people just call
17 us the tax collectors from way back in the old day- -- old days.
18 And we're not.
19 We actually go out every five years. And we do have to visit
20 every property every five years and to be reappraised and to
21 figure out for the property assessments each parcel that is in our
22 county.
23 And through this, that's where eventually all of that *ad*
24 *valorem* taxes come from.
25 So --
26 And it's necessary that we go out there, you know, every
27 five year and pick up all the new construction. And the new
28 construction is with -- there is, like, from the building permit
29 that Anna will give us. And then from that building permit, we
30 go out and we can see, like -- we'll go out and check it. And
31 then at that time it's added to the tax roll and eventually
32 you'll get taxed. So...
33 Also, our assessor does the segregation report. And from
34 that segregation report, it determines the values of the
35 properties, and then eventually that's where the budget is --
36 eventually comes from.
37 And then also in our office, we do the parcel splits and the
38 combinations of parcels, which creates new parcels either way.
39 And, therefore, then, new maps have to be made from -- the new
40 parcel maps have to be updated, which we do. And we do have a

1 mapper. She's right now in Lincoln, Nebraska. And she's done it
2 for years. And then we had a span where we did not have a mapper.
3 And so we were a little bit behind, and we're definitely getting
4 caught up now. So...

5 And then also right now, under the Assessor's Office,
6 there's the IT department who our assessor handles the ID -- IT
7 department at this time.

8 And we're coming up on -- and, actually, we're in one of the
9 busiest two years -- probably about the last 30 years. I haven't
10 been around quite that long. But it's the largest reappraisal
11 year. And it's Book 10 and 11, which encompasses Hill Top and way
12 out north and the new homes on Sheep Creek and (indiscernible)
13 Flats, el- -- you know, so it's a really big reappraisal year and
14 there's a lot to do there.

15 A real big thing that's coming up is the new CAMA system.
16 And CAMA is computer-assisted mass appraisal.

17 And right now we call it the AS/400. It's just a program.

18 What's happening is ADS, who has been our programmers for --
19 what? -- the last 30 years or so, he's retiring and just closing
20 his business, which you guys are probably all aware of.

21 And it's a big turnover. And there's a lot of things that
22 need to be clean- -- cleaned up and a lot -- by the time that
23 the turnover occurs. And so, hopefully, 2018 and 2019, we're
24 going to use that to get everything that needs to be done, like
25 the programs for personal property, for real property, for
26 equipment accounts, you name it, everything we have now. All
27 the programs have to be in place to make the transition a lot
28 smoother.

29 And then the migration will take place on December 1st of
30 2019.

31 So hopefully we'll have training under our belts and
32 everything will go smoothly, hopefully.

33 Also in our office right at the moment, we do handle the
34 business license. And we do, you know -- whoever needs a Lander
35 County business license, they come to -- to us and we get that
36 done.

37 Also, we handle the -- all the personal property, which is
38 the mobile homes, equipment, ag accounts, you name it. They're
39 under that.

40 The only thing is the state at the moment does -- it's

1 centrally assessed are all the large mining and the utilities.
2 Those are all centrally assessed, not through our office but
3 through the state office. So --

4 And also we handle the exemptions for our veterans and the
5 widow/widower exemptions. And those are all handled through our
6 office also.

7 So that pretty much --

8 Those are just little bullets. I mean, it could go on and
9 on, you know.

10 So is there any questions among any of you?

11 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Questions or comments?

12 Okay.

13 DONNA STIENMETZ: Okay.

14 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Thank --

15 DONNA STIENMETZ: Thank --

16 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- you --

17 DONNA STIENMETZ: -- you.

18 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- very much.

19 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thank you, Donna.

20 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Thank you, --

21 DONNA STIENMETZ: You're --

22 COMMISSIONER WAITS: -- Donna.

23 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Appreciate --

24 DONNA STIENMETZ: -- welcome.

25 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- it. A lot going on there.

26 Clerk?

27 COUNTY CLERK SULLIVAN: Okay. While Emily -- Sadie
28 Sullivan, for the record. Lander County clerk.

29 She's getting a little slide show ready.

30 I just brought down the election equipment, a portion, I
31 should say, a small portion. This will be our new voting
32 machines that will be replaced. It's Precincts 1 through 5.

33 This is our touchscreens and the printer.

34 So it's similar as what we had, other than it was big, bulky
35 machines we lugged around. It will now be this.

36 So now we've got to figure out a good transport, you know,
37 to be able to transport it in -- in safe conditions.

38 So this is our new voting machine and our printer here in
39 the corner.

40 Is it on?

1 Just one moment.

2 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Sadie.

3 COUNTY CLERK SULLIVAN: I know. That was the one to go get
4 my daughter from school. Sorry.

5 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Is someone getting your daughter?

6 COUNTY CLERK SULLIVAN: No. I have arrangements.

7 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Okay.

8 COUNTY CLERK SULLIVAN: Thank you. Okay. Here we go.

9 My name is Sadie Sullivan. For you that don't know me, I'm
10 the Lander County clerk.

11 And by the end of the presentation, you'll probably -- or
12 I -- hopefully -- I hope that you guys understand what the
13 Clerk's Office does and what we have accomplished and some of
14 our goals.

15 We are located on the second floor of the courthouse. And we
16 are open Monday through Friday 8:00 to 5:00.

17 I have a little quote up there for leadership. Leadership is
18 practiced not so much in words but as an attitude and as in
19 actions, by Harold Green.

20 And then I have teamwork. And for teamwork, we all have
21 different talents that complement each other, and together we can
22 get it done.

23 Also, we have technology. For the technology, as the Clerk's
24 Office, we embrace technology, but still offer personal,
25 one-on-one services.

26 In my office also is the archives and the record retention.
27 The Clerk's Office is the official record keeper for Lander County
28 with records dating back as far as the 1860s.

29 Archives have come a long way. Years ago, records were
30 transferred on microfilm, which is time-consuming to view and
31 research.

32 Today records are being digitally scanned in an organized
33 manner.

34 And so on our pictures, we have an old microfilm machine on
35 the bottom left. We have the new updated ScanPro 3000 to view
36 the microfilm. But then we have our scanner to actually scan it
37 versus the old-school, very large arm machine. You put one
38 paper down at a time, snap the little picture, and then flip the
39 paper.

40 So our -- our scanner's much -- much more efficient.

1 Then we have the bidding. The Clerk's Office works with
2 various departments within the county and their engineering firms
3 for prebids, bid packets, and bid openings.

4 The Clerk's Office maintains the records of the bids per
5 the local government record retention schedule set by NRS and
6 the NAC.

7 For the commission meetings, the clerk is the *ex officio* of
8 all of Lander County meetings per the statute. We keep original
9 documents that include agenda packets, minutes, recordings,
10 mailings, contracts, agreements, ordinance, proclamation,
11 resolutions, and any other documents that pertain to the
12 commission meeting. And it's available to the public.

13 Also, we have all the other boards that we keep on file for
14 the agenda and the minutes.

15 We have Austin Airport, Board of Eq, Livestock, Debt
16 Management, Kingston Town, Board of Wildlife, Convention &
17 Tourism, TV Board, Planning Commission, RTC, Economic Development,
18 LEPC, PLUAC, and Water and Sewer Number #2.

19 I may have missed a few, but that's quite the list.

20 We have the fictitious firm names that are also in my office.
21 The state requires any person or entity who operates a business
22 under an assumed name or a name other than their own to file a
23 certificate, a fictitious firm name, within the county clerk -- in
24 the county in which they conduct business per the statute. And
25 that fee is \$20.

26 We also have the marriage licensing. We issue the marriage
27 license to the couples per NRS 122. We stay up to date with the
28 state and legislative requirements to ensure proper licensing.
29 There's an age requirement, photo ID, both parties present, and
30 then previous marriage and divorces if needed.

31 Also, if you'd love to be able to perform marriages, you come
32 to my office. Ministers, church or religious officials, notaries,
33 and chaplains of armed force can obtain certificates from the
34 county clerk to perform these marriages per the statute.

35 We go in onto the secretary of state website. And this is
36 where we put all the information in for them to become marriage
37 officiants.

38 Also, my office has the notary public bonds. Those that wish
39 to become notary public file their documentation. And with that,
40 they take the oath there in the office. And this is a \$15 fee.

1 We also have notary public service. We provide it to the
2 community free of charge. And I have two staff members that are
3 available to do that.

4 Within my office we have reporting. The Clerk's Office is
5 required by law to complete regular reporting to the state and
6 other agencies. Some reports include financial reports, voter
7 registration, monthly reports, ERIC reports, and election
8 reporting.

9 In my office -- I have up here on the table just books
10 that -- and manuals that we have in the office to provide. So if
11 anybody needs copies or anything like that, they're -- they're
12 available. There's the ethics statutes; the ethics and
13 government; ethics of public office and public employees; *Nevada*
14 *County Commission Handbook*, '16/'17 edition; Nevada open meeting
15 law; the record retention for local government; and then rec and
16 -- record retention for the Nevada courts.

17 Then we have the elections. The clerk serves as the register
18 of voters and chief e- -- election official in Lander County.

19 The Clerk's Office maintains voter registration records,
20 conducting all federal and county elections, and oversees
21 candidates filing for NRS 293.

22 Conducting the elections.

23 Recruiting. We recruit and train of election boards to
24 facilitate the proper and fair exercise of the public voting
25 rights.

26 Prepare the publication of official election information.
27 Preparation, translation, printing, and distribution of samples
28 and official ballots.

29 Okay. Candidate filings. Declarations of candidacy are
30 filed within my office.

31 The county clerk is the *ex officio* county registrar for all
32 precincts within the county.

33 Maintain voter records. Verify and process new voter
34 affidavits and update voter information.

35 There's several tasks there. Record inactive and cancel
36 voters. Prepare and send notices. Prepare and submit voter daily
37 reports to the secretary of state.

38 So I kind of summed that up a little bit.

39 The upcoming election dates. So on March 5th through the
40 16th is the nonjudicial candidate filing period. May 26th through

1 June 8th is early voting. June 12th is the primary.

2 And we are into October 20th to November 2nd is early
3 voting. All the early voting is held over at the civic center.
4 And our general election is November 6th.

5 And with the goals in the Clerk's Office are extend the
6 highest level of customer service to all citizens, provide
7 transparent operations that maximize voter confidence and the
8 integrity and accountability of our election system. Embrace
9 change and growth. Optimize the use of technology for further
10 advancements in voter service election processes and office
11 functions. And to continue to be physically [verbatim]
12 responsible.

13 In the past years, the Clerk's Office has been able to return
14 15 to 35 percent back to the General Fund.

15 And a couple of things for closing. These are a few words
16 that represent my office. Accountability, dependability,
17 determination, ethics, honesty, int- -- integrity, transparency --
18 transparency.

19 Sorry. I can't talk.

20 At the bottom there I have, ethics is knowing the difference
21 between what you have a right to do and what is right to do by
22 potter -- Porter Stewart. I guess I thought that was a little
23 great thing.

24 And I'd like to say thank you to all the people of Lander
25 County that have had the confidence in me to continue to do my job
26 as the clerk.

27 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Okay. Thank you.

28 COUNTY CLERK SULLIVAN: Any questions?

29 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Thank you, Sadie.

30 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Comments or questions?

31 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Yeah. Did you prepare my slide show
32 for the end? Or --

33 COUNTY CLERK SULLIVAN: I did. I forgot to tell you. I
34 forewarned you.

35 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thank you, Sadie.

36 COUNTY CLERK SULLIVAN: Okay. Thank you.

37 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Thank you very much.
38 Okay.

39 Distr- -- district attorney.

40 DISTRICT ATTORNEY HERRERA: Good afternoon, Honorable --

1 Honorable County Commissioners, Mr. Chairman, elected officials,
2 board members, department heads, and members of the county who
3 decided to come today.

4 It's -- it's a pleasure to be here.

5 I'm going to briefly point out some highlights since I've
6 taken office three years ago.

7 When I first took office, the DA's Office had a closed-door
8 policy. They had curtains on their windows. The doors were
9 locked. And no one was allowed in the office.

10 First thing I did was tear down the curtains, unlock the
11 doors, and put in an open-door policy where I would talk to
12 anyone in the county, not just elected officials, not just --
13 not just department heads, not just county commissioners, but
14 anybody in the county that wants to talk to me, I have an
15 open-door policy and had it for three years. And I will
16 continue to have it as long as I am the district attorney.

17 When I took office, the civil work was on the average four
18 to 20 years behind. Criminal prosecutions were two years
19 behind. There were stacks -- stacks of cases, over a hundred
20 cases.

21 There was no effective communication or relationship between
22 the Sheriff's Department and the DA's Office.

23 And first thing is that I brought in a chief deputy district
24 attorney, Hy Forgeron, who has over 40 years of experience, most
25 of which was done as a district attorney.

26 I brought in an office manager, had over 20 years'
27 experience, Liz Barela.

28 MITESHELL LANHAM: Sorry to interrupt. This is Austin. We
29 can't hear you.

30 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Okay. Let's try that.

31 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Better.

32 DISTRICT ATTORNEY HERRERA: And we had -- they had 60
33 years' experience with my 30 years' experience. We had 90
34 years' experience in my office to put things right. And we did.

35 It took nine months to catch up with the criminal
36 prosecution. And we prosecuted the case. We didn't dismiss
37 cases. We prosecuted and we prosecuted hard. And we prosecuted
38 more cases in that nine months than bigger counties prosecute
39 in -- in a year.

40 We -- we caught up. We -- we continued on. And we are

1 prosecuting more cases today than this office has ever prosecuted
2 since it's been in existence in Lander County.

3 We keep it -- there -- there are certain individuals out
4 there. There's drug cases. There's other cases. We -- we tag --
5 we tag certain people that we wanted to -- to go after that have
6 been taking advantage of this community for years. And we got it.
7 And I put them in prison. And we're going continue to do that.

8 And we're only able to do that because of our -- our renewed
9 relationship with the Sheriff's Department. And it's wonderful.
10 We work well together. And we're doing good work for Lander
11 County as far as the prosecution goes.

12 And that's -- we're able to do that because of the amount of
13 experience -- dedicated experience we have in the office.

14 In the DA's Office, you cannot survive -- you cannot carry on
15 an office with no experience.

16 We -- it's -- it's not like you get a law degree and all of a
17 sudden you can be DA. We found that out three years ago. You
18 can't do it with inexperienced people. So we -- we brought
19 experienced people in.

20 We hired Jeanne Falzone as a -- as a civil deputy -- or as a
21 civil secretary. She has many years' experience in the DA's
22 Office. And she was able to help me bring everything up to date,
23 including the contracts, which some of them hadn't been done for
24 15, 16 years. We have -- we're up to date on all of our
25 contracts. When contracts are due up, it's tickled on Jeanne's
26 system. And we -- we renew it and bring it in front of the county
27 commissioners and they approve it or deny it, whatever. And --
28 and we're up to date on that.

29 We've brought in Liz Esparza as -- as secretary. And we're
30 cross-training her. And she's turned out to be a wonderful
31 employee. Wonderful. And she's -- she's interested in learning.
32 She's not one of those people that just sit there and say, oh, I
33 just want to do my job. She -- she's learning all the -- the
34 facets of the DA's Office. And that's what we need.

35 That's how you keep experience. That's how you get
36 experienced people. And that's how you keep them.

37 If you pigeonhole them and only let them do one thing,
38 they're never going to learn the whole job.

39 And -- and so many things happen in the DA's Office that we
40 advising people legally, the co- -- not just the county

1 commissioners. I represent the county commission. I give legal
2 advice to all other entities -- to the boards, to the elected
3 officials, to the Sheriff's Department. I do not represent
4 them, but I give them legal advice whenever they ask. And I
5 take pleasure in doing that. I -- I have no problem with it.
6 I -- I -- I give the hospital legal advice. I help -- try and
7 help the hospital out. The school asks me, I help the school
8 out. Water District 2 in -- in Austin, which is a separate
9 legal entity. I have an open-door policy to them. And I think
10 that's necessary for a good district attorney's office.

11 Now, some of the highlights of what we've done, except aside
12 from the catching up with the criminal prosecution and staying on
13 top of it, catching up with the -- the civil and staying on top of
14 that, we -- we went from the Sixth Judicial District Court to the
15 Eleventh Judicial District Court. And that was a little
16 difficult.

17 And I was part of that. Went to the legislature a number --
18 number of times on behalf of the county and talked to them. And
19 we were able to transfer them into the Eleventh Judicial District
20 Court, which gave us certain positive things.

21 And -- and one of them -- for the last 20 years, we've been
22 involved in a contract with the Sixth Judicial District Court in
23 which most of -- most of the resources that we were paying for,
24 including Leighton Hall, were in Winnemucca or Lovelock. We
25 didn't have any resources here even though we were paying for
26 them -- a million -- over a million dollars in -- in 20 years.
27 Well over that.

28 Even though we were paying for them, we did not have them
29 local. That's one of the primary things I set out to change.

30 Today, we have local resources. We have a drug court. We
31 have our own juvenile officer. We're paying for them just like we
32 were before, although we're paying less because we don't have to
33 pay \$400,000 a year for -- for -- to use Leighton Hall.

34 But we were able to have local resources. And it's a
35 perfect solution for Lander County. If we're going pay hundreds
36 of thousands of dollars a year, we should have local resources.
37 We should not pay for Winnemucca's resources. And that was a
38 big thing.

39 We were able to recoup -- I don't have the figure right off
40 the top of my head -- a few hundred thousand dollars from Leighton

1 Hall from our -- from our ownership interest in Leighton Hall,
2 which was disputed by Humboldt County, who thought we had no
3 ownership interest in -- in a building we paid over a million
4 dollars for in 20 years.

5 So we were prepared. We -- we hired a law firm. I acted as
6 liaison. We went to many meetings over many months. We were
7 prepared to go to court. And we finally were able to negotiate a
8 settlement in which we were paid a sig- -- a significant amount of
9 money for our interest in Leighton Hall. And now that is a
10 positive thing for Lander County.

11 Again, we -- during my last three years, we've built the rec
12 center. We -- we've tried to fix all the boards that -- and --
13 and board members here understand what I'm saying. Some of them
14 were not very happy because they thought they'd been doing things
15 right for 20 years. And I don't know how many times I heard,
16 well, we've been doing it this way for 20 years.

17 And we have to follow the law. We have to follow the open
18 meeting law. We have to follow the -- the Nevada state law.
19 And -- and so we applied that to the county commissioners. I --
20 I made recommendations to them. They made decisions.

21 I do not make policy. I will not attempt to make policy. I
22 do not want to make policy. But these five individuals up here
23 are the policy makers of the county.

24 And I make my re- -- I do my research. I do my
25 investigation. I -- I submit my recommendations to the honorable
26 board. And they decide whether or not they're going to follow my
27 re- -- recommendations. And they don't -- and they don't always
28 follow my recommendations. But, you know, they -- they do what
29 they want to do and for their reasons. And they're the policy
30 makers. And I have no problem with that. That's how our
31 government's set up. That's how it should be.

32 They represent the people. I represent them legally. And
33 -- and together we've accomplished many things in three years.
34 Like I said, we built a rec center. We've -- we've -- we were
35 involved in some important litigation such as water issues.

36 We have one or two lawsuits against us. But that's been
37 going on for many years.

38 We've -- we've entered into lawsuits to protect our water
39 rights.

40 We have road issues that we need to -- to work on in the

1 future.

2 We need to work on ordinances because the -- we've made
3 certain decisions. Executive director and the county
4 commissioners have -- have changed things around. And we need to
5 have the ordinances catch up with them.

6 Right now we have -- we're carrying on business with -- with
7 competing ordinances. And it -- it takes a long time to do
8 ordinances. And -- and we're planning on fixing them. And it's
9 taking a while.

10 We're -- we're planning on claiming a lot of roads that the
11 federal government think they own but we believe we own. And
12 we're going to establish a recordation or quiet title action to
13 establish the Lander County roads. And that is a big thing to
14 me. And -- and we're planning on doing it. And it just takes a
15 lot of work. It -- it's -- it's not something you can do
16 overnight. So we -- we're going to submit our legal claims to
17 them legally. And we're -- we've joined organizations.

18 One of our county commissioners is the president-elect of
19 NACO. And that's -- that's a big thing for Lander County to have
20 a NACO president as -- as our county commissioner. And
21 congratulations again for that.

22 And she goes to all these meetings and -- and brings back
23 some -- some great ideas and -- and tries to apply them in the
24 county.

25 And so we're up. Lander County not only is -- is doing well,
26 but it's being represented well. And that's -- that's the
27 important thing.

28 I mean, if you're represented well, even bad times, you can
29 get through it. If you're represented not so well, well, problems
30 can happen.

31 Now, not everybody agrees. But just like in a family,
32 people are going to disagree. But they're still going to work
33 together and accomplish their tasks. And -- and we've got a
34 fine board. And that's what I see they're doing. They work
35 together. They -- they -- they may have different ideas on how
36 to -- to find a solution on problems, but they work it out.
37 They take a vote. And it's in the best interest of Lander
38 County. It's -- it's true representative government at work.

39 And -- and I hope the whole county pays attention to it.

40 We're -- we're not -- this is not a -- a board that's out of

1 control. And it's not an inept board. It's a board that they all
2 have different ideas. They all come from different places in
3 life. And, again, it's a pure and true representative government.
4 And -- and I'm proud to be a part of it in -- in -- in the
5 capacity I am.

6 So we have lots of work to do. We've -- we've accomplished a
7 lot.

8 And my office certainly didn't do it by -- by itself. We
9 were able to work with -- with Keith, the executive director. We
10 were able to work with the county commissioners. We were able to
11 work with elected officials. And we're st- -- we're trying to
12 work with department heads. We -- we work with the boards.
13 Some -- some of the boards think I -- I don't give them enough
14 attention. And -- and I wish I had more time to do that. But I'm
15 willing to answer -- give any legal advice or write a legal
16 opinion on -- on any issue that any board members have or any
17 elected official has, as long as they -- they can come into my
18 office or write me a letter. And I'm -- and I'm willing to do
19 that.

20 I wish I had more time available so I could go to every board
21 meeting. I wish I did. But I -- I can't do that.

22 But what I can do and what I have done is take this job
23 seriously.

24 I'm from Lander County. I grew up here. I went to grade
25 school here. I went to high school here. I graduated here. My
26 four brothers graduated here.

27 And after I went to law school and I -- and I got my law
28 license, I started practicing here. And I practiced here for
29 many, many years before I became district attorney. And I had
30 30 years' experience prior to becoming district attorney.

31 And -- and I was -- the reason I became district attorney
32 and I went for district attorney is because this is my town. I
33 grew up here. I care about this town. And I care when bad
34 things are happening to this town. And I care when -- when the
35 district attorney's office was -- was struggling.

36 And we corrected that.

37 And -- and I plan on continuing to -- to -- to -- to work in
38 this capacity, to help this county.

39 And when I'm no longer district attorney, I'm still going to
40 be involved in this county. I -- I'm not one of these district

1 attorneys that come from another place and -- and put my four or
2 eight years in here and then I'm off.

3 I've been here. I'll always be here. And I care about the
4 people and the county. And that's important.

5 It's important to have people work for us, work for the
6 county, that has personal -- the personal interest in what happens
7 in the county. Because if they're indifferent to it, they don't
8 care. They're just getting a paycheck. They're just getting
9 something on their resume.

10 And my -- and I -- and I'm glad we're having this today
11 because those of you that run for public office and those of you
12 that -- that volunteer for these boards, you don't get any money.
13 You're putting your private time in. And -- and everybody's time
14 is important to them. They are volunteering private time to help
15 this community. And I think everybody in Lander County should be
16 aware of that. These are volunteers of the first magnitude.

17 I -- my hat goes off to them. And -- and I hope it's
18 appreciated by -- by everybody in the county. I hope all the
19 elected officials are appreciated because they do a lot of work.
20 The county employees do a lot of work. The board members do a lot
21 of work except they don't get paid for it.

22 So I -- I want to thank everyone that's on the board. I
23 want to thank the elected officials. I want to take this
24 honorable board -- thank this honorable board for giving me the
25 opportunity to tell you what I've been doing for three years and
26 my plans for the future and -- and thank everybody in the
27 audience for listening to me.

28 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Thank you, Ted.

29 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thank you, Ted.

30 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Thank you, Counselor.

31 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Any questions or comments for our district
32 attorney?

33 Okay. We'll move on to district court.

34 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Oh, Baldini.

35 DAN BALDINI: Dan Baldini with the Eleventh Judicial
36 District Court.

37 I wanted to take a little bit of time to speak to everybody
38 today.

39 As Ted had -- Ted had talked about the Eleventh Judicial
40 District was formed. That is Lander, Pershing, and Mineral

1 County.

2 So we have Judge Shirley is the chief of -- or the
3 administrator of the district. And he has court in all three
4 counties.

5 He has a juvenile department in all three counties. And
6 I'm going to talk a little bit about what we are doing here.

7 Before that, if you don't know, the district court does now
8 have a clerk, their own clerk's office.

9 They moved out of Sadie's office and established an office
10 right up above us here.

11 So all filings with the district court are right up here.
12 And we share the office with the highway patrol. And -- and
13 most of you probably know that; right?

14 But I think it's made it a little more convenient.

15 As far as the juvenile department here in Lander County, I'm
16 going to touch on -- again on what Ted said about Leighton Hall.

17 Any kid that gets in trouble now in Lander County is housed
18 in Elko. And we're not paying Elko \$250,000 a year. We spend
19 \$300 dollars a day for a kid that is placed in Elko.

20 But we have alternatives that we are using to mitigate
21 taking a kid to Leighton -- or to Elko. We're using electronic
22 monitoring and house arrest, probation services, to keep kids in
23 the community and out of detention.

24 In the last year I think we've only detained two kids in
25 Elko from Lander County. The rest of the kids we're trying to
26 do alternative things with. All right.

27 Besides the probation services, formal and informal, formal
28 being more elevated and informal being more something that we can
29 handle informally with parents and children, the guardian ad litem
30 program for abuse and neglect and divorce and custody is still
31 going.

32 We have a great walk-in program.

33 Some of the services that we are providing that many of you
34 may not know about, with the help of a few people, we've in -- put
35 into the program, we have a youth -- youth apprenticeship program.

36 Kids that have had interaction with us through the juvenile
37 department from traffic tickets to formal probation, now we're
38 able to apply for jobs. We've approached various businesses
39 throughout the community. I see some people in here that are --
40 are part of that. Robin is. And we place these kids with an

1 employer. But we have a grant. And we are their financial agent.
2 So they become Pershing County employees. And they go to work for
3 -- I'm going to use Robin at the rec center.

4 We give a kid 120 hours. And we will pay their wages. But
5 they go to work for Robin. And she's their employer. And she
6 trains them.

7 And she -- Robin's tough to work for. But she is the one who
8 trains the kid, gives them life experience, job experience, and
9 then we pay their wages.

10 Now, if a kid doesn't cut it, they send back to us and we
11 lay them off.

12 But the kids that are doing that -- we have five kids right
13 now that are working in the community in different jobs that are
14 doing fantastic. And it's really good because it's -- it's free
15 labor. And they gain that job experience.

16 So it's really -- that's one of the big, successful programs
17 that we've got going on right now.

18 Actually, we have ran out of money. And we're starting to
19 put the kids back because our grant cycle doesn't have until
20 October, and we're going run out of money before school's out.

21 So it's really been successful.

22 I wanted to talk about the Botvin LifeSkills.

23 Mr. Melver over at the junior high has allowed us to go in
24 and do LifeSkills. We started a year ago with just the sixth
25 grade class. This year we completed -- sixth and seventh grade
26 have been introduced to the material. Next year, we're hoping to
27 do the entire junior high school with LifeSkills and antidrug,
28 anti-alcohol things.

29 All right. The MAGIC program still going.

30 We have the -- the Wise programming, which is a
31 computer-based antidrug programming that kids have to sit in and
32 complete. This -- it can be voluntary or it's a court sanction.
33 All right.

34 It includes Marijuana-Wise, Alcohol-Wise, and Other
35 Drug-Wise. And we just started with Conflict-Wise and Respect and
36 Resolve-Wise. They're really good programming. And on top of
37 that, there's a Parenting-Wise program.

38 Lastly, we have walk-in or sanctions through court for mental
39 health counseling. We have a counselor that comes from Reno that
40 is meeting with probably 17 kids and families right now.

1 And we have substance abuse counseling with TKL Counseling
2 that is really helping us with the kids that are coming in that
3 are using drugs or alcohol. King is helping us with that. And
4 those are all either voluntary or court-sanctioned.

5 And that's about what we're doing upstairs.

6 Questions?

7 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Good job.

8 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: Thank you, Mr. --

10 DAN BALDINI: All right.

11 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: -- Baldini.

12 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Thank you. Sheriff?

13 SHERIFF RON UNGER: Good afternoon.

14 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Hello.

15 SHERIFF RON UNGER: And if I had a -- had a little more
16 notice on what this meeting was going to be about, we'd had a
17 PowerPoint.

18 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Right.

19 SHERIFF RON UNGER: (Indiscernible.)

20 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Talk to Sadie.

21 SHERIFF RON UNGER: Robert doesn't have enough to do. So
22 he could have -- would have been more ready. So next year we'll
23 have a PowerPoint and maybe videos. So --

24 If that'll help.

25 So I jotted down a few notes that we'll try to go over here
26 real quick. So there's stuff I may miss. But I'll give everybody
27 kind of an idea of what -- what goes on at the sheriff's office.

28 First of all, the Sheriff's Office is divided up into three
29 different groups, I guess, if you want to call it that. We have
30 three budgets that we take care of and maintain. And I'll get
31 into that.

32 We also have an open-door policy at the Sheriff's Office to
33 where if anybody, I don't care who they are, want to come over
34 and take a tour of the jail or whatever or ask questions, have a
35 cup of coffee, sit down and bs about what's going on in their
36 home life, we do that. We listen to them, believe it or not.
37 It -- we do that.

38 And unlike what it has been in years past, we have the best
39 relationship in the world with the DA's Office.

40 It doesn't matter what we do, if we make a good arrest, bad

1 arrest, we can call the DA's Office and get straightened out
2 immediately. So they're as much involved at the Sheriff's Office
3 as we are, to be honest with you. And to give you an idea, in
4 years past my jail population was about three on a daily average.
5 That was three. And I had six employees taking care of them
6 three.

7 Now my daily average is running well above 20 and has
8 actually been close to 40 at times in the last several years.

9 So that -- he's making us work harder than we need to work, I
10 guess, is what it boils down to.

11 But I would like to take this opportunity to thank him.

12 But as a sheriff's office, our primary goal is public safety.
13 And like I said, we're broke up into three different departments.
14 We have a patrol division, a jail division, and then the admin.
15 And I've also got the Search and Rescue under us also.

16 So under the patrol division -- and that is countywide, we
17 have a substation in Austin. We have deputies and an office
18 manager down there that takes care of that. But we're tasked
19 with enforcing the laws of the State of Nevada. We're tasked
20 with public safety.

21 The deputies have the powers of arrest, as we know. Every
22 crime is investigated. So we do a lot of criminal investigations.

23 We also do all the reports, everything we make an arrest on,
24 every bit of that paperwork the deputies have to fill out the
25 statements or reports. Every bit of that goes to the DA. So my
26 admin staff is tasked with that.

27 We do the paper service for the subpoenas, the garnishments.
28 We do every bit of that.

29 We do search warrants, arrest warrants. We are also the
30 coroner of the county. So we do all the coroner's calls. Every
31 single one of them are investigated.

32 We have our K-9 dog, which was recently retired. And we
33 have another one now that we're down in California today getting
34 trained up on with that. So it'll not only be a -- a narcotics
35 dog, but it's also going to be a tracking dog. So if we need to
36 use it for tracking, we have that.

37 We have a SRO, which is the school resource officer, that
38 goes into the school. So we've already assigned one deputy to
39 that. So there will be a deputy in our schools as soon as we get
40 the MOU written up, which will be done by tomorrow, I believe.

1 Then we're going to get started on that. There's going to be to
2 be a lot of training on that.

3 On the patrol side, we also got our dispatch center, which
4 is under the sheriff's side. And that's a 24/7, 365-day-a-week
5 center.

6 We -- we have one in there most of the time. But a lot of
7 time there's two because of the overlapping of the hours. And
8 they are -- that is our 911 control center. They receive every
9 911 call. They take it. And they dispatch out from there.

10 So we not only dispatch for the Sheriff's Office, we
11 dispatch for EMS, Fire, and tribal at this point. And a lot of
12 times we'll get calls come in off of a cell phone. We'll --
13 we've got direct lines with the Nevada Highway Patrol. And so
14 we can dispatch calls straight out to them.

15 They run all the reports for the jail. They monitor all of
16 the cameras that's within our building, at this point in time.
17 And in the future, I believe they're going to be monitoring some
18 other county buildings. So we have quite an elaborate camera
19 system there.

20 And they also assist other jurisdictions. And I'm talking
21 Humboldt County, Eureka, Elko, the counties that adjoin us. Any
22 problems that they have in their counties, if they need help on,
23 we dispatch our deputies to them so they help out there.

24 We're also tasked on the patrol side for being the bailiff of
25 the district court.

26 And we're also in charge of board security for our
27 illustrious county commissioners here.

28 And every morning and every afternoon, you'll see the
29 deputies at the schools doing traffic safety for those kids.

30 So that's -- that's just part of what they do.

31 And when I say they assist EMS, they assist the fire
32 department. When we get out on a call, usually the fire de- -- or
33 the Sheriff's Office is first on scene.

34 If the fire department shows up and there's only a couple of
35 us on the first truck, the deputies will automatically start
36 pulling hose. They do the same thing for EMS. They help those
37 people load. They'll run and get stuff that's needed. We will be
38 able to drive the ambulance if necessary. We have our patrol cars
39 on scene. And we'll do that. Same thing with the highway patrol.
40 We assist them quite -- matter of fact, we're out on the highways

1 sometimes more than they are at night. So we are very busy there.

2 On the jail side of it, they're responsible for the
3 prisoners. Their -- their main task is prisoner intake. The --
4 they'll do the booking, the searching, the prisoner safety. We
5 house them. We feed them. We give them their medication when
6 they need it. We do the transports. If they got to go to
7 Fallon or to Carson City or wherever they have to go, we're
8 tasked with the transportation.

9 We also give tours.

10 Under that, we have our own kitchen that's under the jail
11 staff, which we have staff members that -- that do the cooking
12 for us.

13 We're in charge of laundry.

14 They order all of their own supplies. They are in charge
15 of the maintenance. And when I say maintenance in there,
16 there's a lot of maintenance that my staff is trained up to do,
17 that they take care of that as opposed to calling sometimes
18 contractors.

19 And they're tasked with cleaning the building. And when I
20 say that, at night we have prisoners that we can take out of
21 their cells and they do all the floors within that secured area
22 and do all the cleanup. And they do all the laundry themselves.
23 So that's pretty much what they do.

24 On the admin side -- and I've got two secretaries in there
25 and --

26 (Cell phone ringing.)

27 SHERIFF RON UNGER: -- an -- an office manager. So I've
28 actually got three, two at this point. But they're tasked with
29 public services.

30 We have notaries in there, not only for the public but also
31 for the prisoners.

32 We do all the fingerprinting, CCW permits, liquor license,
33 criminal reports, ex-felon registration, employee records.
34 We're responsible for that. We have a person trained up in HR.
35 They take care of all the evidence locker. All the evidence
36 that's brought in, they track it. It's on a bar-code system
37 now, which is very nice. And we process all civil papers on
38 that side of it.

39 So the main building, the maintenance on that -- like I said,
40 we do have an open-door policy -- but the maintenance on the

1 building itself, other than when you get into some of that real
2 high-tech stuff, myself and the undersheriff does that.

3 We do have a Santa on Patrol. We have -- we do Shop with a
4 Cop. We have Pumpkin Patrol. And we're going to -- there's some
5 other stuff we're going to get started on a little later on this
6 year.

7 But I have my own IT person, which is a -- a savings in
8 itself, considering that the jail -- years ago it was all done
9 with a -- in the jail itself. There was a control panel almost
10 the size of this table with little toggle switches. And that's
11 what opened the doors, turned on the lights. It turned off the
12 water. It did -- turned on the intercom system. We had a short
13 in that system one time. We pulled that panel up and there had
14 to be a half a million little wires in that sucker. We spent
15 \$38,000 trying to fix it. So we finally got away with it and we
16 went to a data system that's all touchscreen. It's all
17 computerized. The doors have been all updated in the facility.
18 Our cameras have been updated. Boy, I could go on and on about
19 what we've done there.

20 But, anyway, I've probably forgotten a whole bunch of stuff.

21 But I'd also have a -- the K-9, as I went over.

22 What did I forget? Robert? Forget anything?

23 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Did you talk about --

24 SHERIFF RON UNGER: Any questions?

25 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Did you talk about --

26 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Well, I --

27 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- Search and Rescue?

28 COMMISSIONER WAITS: I have --

29 SHERIFF RON UNGER: Oh, yeah. I did say we had the search
30 and rescue --

31 COMMISSIONER WAITS: He mentioned --

32 SHERIFF RON UNGER: -- group there.

33 COMMISSIONER WAITS: -- Search and Rescue, but you didn't
34 mention animal control and the feral cat program.

35 SHERIFF RON UNGER: Oh, I haven't got there yet.

36 I only got the -- the -- to the jail.

37 We also -- my third budget is with animal control. So --

38 And we have one full-time animal control officer. I have a
39 part-time animal control officer. And she's tasked with the
40 care and the maintenance of all the stray animals or the animals

1 that we pick up. So she does a licensing of them. If they need
2 to be --

3 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Chipped.

4 SHERIFF RON UNGER: -- what's the word I'm looking for? --

5 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Microchipped.

6 SHERIFF RON UNGER: -- microchipped, she can do that.
7 She's responsible for all the cleaning, the maintenance down
8 there. We do have a spay program for the dogs. And we have a
9 feral cat program also to where people -- now we're not out
10 catching cats. But if somebody has a cat, feral cat, they bring
11 it in. We will participate up to \$50 in the spay of that cat,
12 get them spayed, up to three cats per family.

13 So we've got a brand-new, very nice animal control truck now
14 that's user-friendly.

15 So search and rescue. We have that. Those guys are just
16 phenomenal. We have some of the best trained search and rescue
17 people in the state. Some of them are just absolutely
18 phenomenal. They meet once a month. They -- I have a budget
19 for them on the sheriff's office side. They're probably not as
20 well equipped as we'd like them to be. But every one of them's
21 got a lot of common sense so they can figure out how to make the
22 system work in their advantage. And they're -- they're my go-to
23 people. Anytime we have a -- as an example, years ago when we
24 had bombings at the school -- or bomb threats at the school,
25 where the deputies were busy searching the school and taking
26 care of the kids, this type of stuff, the search and rescue team
27 and the fire department would come out and block our roads and
28 keep people out of there.

29 So we have an excellent search and rescue program.

30 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Thank you.

31 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Thank you, --

32 SHERIFF RON UNGER: Any --

33 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thank you, --

34 COMMISSIONER WAITS: -- Ron.

35 SHERIFF RON UNGER: -- questions?

36 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: -- Ron.

37 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Questions for Ron? Comments?

38 SHERIFF RON UNGER: We're the cheapest outfit in the
39 county. We're very frugal. We don't spend your money on a lot
40 of stuff we don't need.

1 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Now (indiscernible).

2 SHERIFF RON UNGER: But any of you that would like, if some
3 of you -- most of you have been in the jail. It's -- it's
4 really a beautiful facility. Even though it's 18 years old, it
5 looks like it's new. We just redid some of the carpeting. We
6 -- we -- it was all carpeted. So we got rid of that and put
7 some hardwood floors in or that laminated. So it saved on our
8 cleaning. It saved quite a bit.

9 We have just recently painted the jail and the booking
10 area. All the cells are pink. So there is pink cells in there,
11 believe it or not. It --

12 But you're all welcome to come and take a look.

13 We have such an elaborate joint that we've had four different
14 counties within the state of Nevada come and look at our
15 facilities when they were getting ready to build their own
16 facility. So they used ours kind of as a pattern to look at.
17 Because it is very effective. It's -- it's a very good working
18 jail. So --

19 CHAIRMAN MILLS: We're al- -- we're also scheduled to do a
20 -- a rehab of the building, especially the -- the exterior of
21 the building mainly, re- -- re-cover --

22 SHERIFF RON UNGER: That's --

23 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- it.

24 SHERIFF RON UNGER: -- correct.

25 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Yeah.

26 SHERIFF RON UNGER: And -- and what Doug's talking about is
27 when the building was built, they built the -- they stuccoed it.
28 But there's a cap up on top that wasn't put on right that
29 allowed the water and the moisture to get down between the
30 building and the stucco. And it's busted it off. It's coming
31 apart.

32 So this year the county commissioners are going to restucco
33 that building and help us out on that a little bit.

34 Lander County was the very first county in the state of
35 Nevada to have body cameras on every one of the patrol deputies.
36 Now we have body cameras on every one of the sworn officers. That
37 includes the jail. And that has been a great help. Been a little
38 expensive, but it's saved this county a lot of -- a lot of issues
39 with who said, you said, he-said/she-said type of deal. Now we've
40 got everything on video so it eliminates all the bs.

1 So it's come a long ways. It's come a long ways. And
2 we're also -- and Robert can tell you, we're going to be the --
3 we are the poster child for part of it -- but we're going to be
4 a test for the state of Nevada for the --

5 UNDERSHERIFF ROBERT QUICK: The incident base reporting
6 system.

7 SHERIFF RON UNGER: The what?

8 UNDERSHERIFF ROBERT QUICK: Incident base reporting system.

9 SHERIFF RON UNGER: Oh, that NIBR system. Yeah. So the
10 federal government's going away from a -- a UCR, and they're
11 going into a NIBR system. And because of some of the
12 individuals I have employed with me, they have asked us if we
13 would be the test child for the state of Nevada. So Robert will
14 be doing that. But --

15 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Marla, did you --

16 SHERIFF RON UNGER: Anyway.

17 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- have something?

18 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Thank you, Ron.

19 SHERIFF RON UNGER: Thank -- question?

20 MARLA SAM: I'm Marla Sam, for the record.

21 I would just like to take the opportunity to thank you and
22 your departments for allowing the adult education to come in and
23 to teach the -- and for -- to allow the churches to come in and
24 also visit with the inmates. It's a very important service that
25 you do for the community. And it's much appreciated.

26 SHERIFF RON UNGER: It is. Thank you for that. And, yes.
27 And we also have the Alcohol Anonymous, AA that come in. And I
28 forgot about that. We do do that. Thank you for that.

29 We try to help them as much as we can. So --

30 Anyway, thank you.

31 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: Thank you, --

32 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thank you, --

33 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: -- Ron.

34 SHERIFF RON UNGER: Next year --

35 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: -- Ron.

36 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Thanks, --

37 SHERIFF RON UNGER: -- come --

38 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- Ron.

39 SHERIFF RON UNGER: -- for the movie. We'll charge at the
40 front door. We'll get it --

1 CHAIRMAN MILLS: All --
2 SHERIFF RON UNGER: -- in there.
3 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- right.
4 We'll -- we'll move on to some of the more busy groups now.
5 Treasurer? Gene?
6 GENE ETCHEVERRY: That's me.
7 This must be the hot seat.
8 At least --
9 CHAIRMAN MILLS: And we --
10 GENE ETCHEVERRY: -- now it is; --
11 CHAIRMAN MILLS: We'll --
12 GENE ETCHEVERRY: -- right?
13 CHAIRMAN MILLS: We'll officially designate it that. Yeah.
14 GENE ETCHEVERRY: Okay.
15 DISTRICT ATTORNEY HERRERA: It is now that you're sitting
16 here.
17 GENE ETCHEVERRY: Yeah. It's -- yeah. I smell something.
18 Honorable Chairman, members of the commission, fellow elected
19 officials -- even though I'm not; I'm appointed -- and everyone
20 else that's either a citizen, taxpayer, board member, anybody in
21 the room or elsewhere.
22 First off, I am the appointed official by this board.
23 And I think, as of the last couple of weeks and
24 particularly today, I can honestly say thank you. Thank you for
25 that opportunity.
26 I think we're going in a good direction in the treasury.
27 And everybody knows treasury money. You take in the money.
28 You pick put the tick marks where you get the money. And you
29 watch the money go out by signing the checks, et cetera.
30 Okay. That's -- that's a little part of it. It sure is.
31 Basically it can be broke down to collection of revenue,
32 taking care of our investments, and the oversight of the financial
33 resources and assets of the county.
34 It's also important that when we receive the revenue that
35 we're able to get it out to all of our different departments,
36 different subcounty units of local government, et cetera, timely.
37 Important thing.
38 And I can honestly say, we're -- we're getting much better at
39 that. And I think that we're going to be in a position this year
40 to where we're actually proactive on that and we can get something

1 out, say, to our school district or to Austin Sewer and Water #2,
2 the hospital, the day we receive it. The day that it's actually
3 received and we know it's in the bank, hard money, we can get that
4 right out to the school district or the hospital.

5 We've tried that just the past couple of weeks with a couple
6 of revenue sources. It worked.

7 So we're going to ride that and -- and make it work from here
8 on out.

9 So basically, what is it with -- with taxation and
10 collection, et cetera?

11 It's -- our duty is not to just to collect. We are actually
12 the folks that bill real property.

13 The Assessor's Office, of course, bills the unsecured
14 property.

15 This body here establishes the tax rate, imposes it. We
16 apply that tax rate against the assessed value developed by the
17 Assessor's Office, generate real property tax bills, send them out
18 to everybody. They're really thrilled to get them. And then they
19 come and pay us the money. So we're the collector.

20 It's -- what I'm trying to illustrate with that is it's very
21 integral. The treasury is very integral to the different areas of
22 the county, such as Finance and the Assessor's Office. We're
23 working hard to find out where we can be better or improve on all
24 those linkages of information of just working together hand in
25 hand.

26 If we aren't getting revenue out to Water and Sewer or to the
27 landfill, there's serious issues when bills need to be produced
28 and even more serious issues when you get a bill that makes no
29 sense.

30 Same thing on property taxes. If something happens and, say,
31 we aren't taking notes of a -- a deed change or something that
32 goes on on the assessor's side, we're going to bill an entity that
33 isn't responsible for the taxes or bill taxes where they're not
34 actually a taxable property. It can get kind of different.

35 Those situations are few and far between, excuse me, but
36 those are the situations that take up an undue amount of time.

37 So with those duties, we mix in the investments, the
38 reporting. We report to the state other than through our annual
39 audit. We report directly to the state at least six times during
40 the year.

1 Three of those times are very critical because the first time
2 with pro forma revenue projections. That's where our office is
3 responsible for applying that tax rate, getting it to the state.
4 And they come in and tell us how much based on the assessed value,
5 et cetera, and abatements that any entity in this county can
6 expect for the revenue.

7 We get it wrong, they'll go back to that report, and then
8 I'll probably have some explaining to do.

9 We're real careful on that particular point not to get it
10 wrong. Reports after that, of course, are end-of-the-year
11 collections versus billings, critical reports for the school
12 district. Very critical in that those reports determine for our
13 school district the amount of their DSA so that when they do their
14 budget, they know how much state money they can expect and then
15 the infill for county money.

16 Once again, if we get it wrong, it's going to cost the school
17 district directly. They don't have a way to make that up.

18 So that's our recording side. I do want to spend a little
19 bit of time on what we do investmentwise.

20 I don't come into this office at 5:00 in the morning when the
21 markets open in New York. You don't want me to. I don't have
22 enough experience to -- to do well at that at all.

23 We have folks, of course, that do that for us. But it is --
24 it isn't just point and shoot. We have a very sizable portfolio
25 for a county our size. We have a very sizable portfolio, period,
26 regardless of size.

27 We have two main managers that manage that money for us.

28 But, first of all, we do have -- and -- and I'm making
29 assumption here, and I know that assumption isn't global amongst
30 the five commissioners -- but we do have an investment policy here
31 in Lander County and strategy. It was set back in 2012. I can
32 remember at least being -- not part of it -- but at least, you
33 know, present when that was being developed by my predecessor.

34 It's an excellent strategy. Many other counties in this
35 state pattern and still have those pattern -- policies in place
36 based on what was developed here.

37 I am going to bring that strategy and investment policy
38 before the commissioners and with one of our two investment
39 managers or advisers -- because they'll really know what they're
40 talking about -- to explain what impact our strategy has and get

1 input from the commission and from the public on maybe some things
2 that can be done better.

3 The last legislature enabled local governments to become a
4 little more speculative and get up -- I believe it's 15 percent
5 now. Our entire portfolio can be in great AA+ or AAA corporate
6 bonds. Sounds good. Not after last week it doesn't. But, of
7 course, our audit only happens once a year. It's over. Hopefully
8 the fair market value would -- would come back in that year we
9 have.

10 I -- I don't have the stomach for that.

11 We do have a small amount of our portfolio. It's about --
12 between 2.5 and 3 percent that is AAA corporate bonds, not stocks.
13 Interesting to see those this week. They've actually -- all of
14 ours have recovered. But at the end of last week, it was a sorry
15 sight.

16 But once again, we -- our strategy is like all local
17 governments or even most state governments. We are not a
18 speculative entity. We are a buy-and-hold entity.

19 And as you learned at the last meeting in J- -- January, when
20 our audit was presented, once a year we take a snapshot. We book
21 fair market value. But we move on.

22 Whatever we have invested is what we have invested. And if
23 we wait it out till maturities or call dates, you can expect the
24 coupon interest to come. And you can expect the maturity of the
25 principle there too.

26 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: So, Gene, how much in the last --
27 okay. So we started investing in five years, how much money is
28 the county gaining on their investments every year?

29 GENE ETCHEVERRY: Okay. I thought it was interesting when
30 our audit was presented because the tone of our auditor and --
31 and the volume of his voice went down. And he did say we booked
32 a slight loss last year.

33 Yes, we did. We booked a loss on the overall value. What
34 happened with that was in September of '16, a decision was made
35 to move approximately \$20 million from one investment company,
36 Bank of New York Mellon to our main investment portfolio, which
37 is with Wells Fargo Investments.

38 I don't know what exactly what was behind that. I wasn't the
39 treasurer then. However, what happened I definitely do support.

40 When it went from the one investment company over to Wells,

1 the maturity -- the term of maturities for the entire investment
2 went from the two- to three-year period to the three- to five-year
3 period. Okay.

4 And it became heavily concentrated in agencies, either agency
5 bonds or agency CDs.

6 Okay. So you're saying, well, what the heck difference does
7 that make?

8 Okay. Going from two to three years to three to five years
9 raises the interest on that. Lose a little liquidity, gain
10 interest.

11 Secondly, the agents being agency CDs or bonds, they carry a
12 little -- slightly more risk than, say, T-bills or whatever. So
13 they also bumped up our interest.

14 Now, you're on the front end of a maturity for a big amount
15 of your portfolio and you went higher interest.

16 Well, it -- the risk and return being what it is, you're
17 going for the highest -- higher interest, you're on the front end,
18 it's going to decrease the face value. That's what caused the
19 small loss.

20 The loss was approximately -- right at 1 percent of our
21 entire portfolio.

22 Now, June -- July 1, 2016, through June 30 of 2017, the
23 interest earned -- real dollars booked into our fiscal house here
24 at the county -- increased by 13.78 percent.

25 So how's that compare to the loss? In one year, the book
26 value and only book value on that certain day that the fair market
27 value was established, that recouped all but 164,000.

28 I don't think that was a bad strategy. And I think we
29 benefited quite a bit. It raised our average portfolio from
30 1.69 percent to 1.857 percent.

31 I'm hoping that, before I turn this over to a new elected
32 treasurer a year from now, that we have our portfolio right at
33 that -- right at about 2 percent without absorbing more risk.

34 So that -- that's pretty much what we do. That's been our
35 strategy.

36 Successes this year. We have a very good team in that
37 office. And the last three months in that office, with the team
38 of folks we've got in there, has probably been the most -- the
39 biggest period for change, the biggest period for those moments
40 where you say, now we've got it right. Now it's working well.

1 As of today, in fact, I'll make sure I -- after I bore
2 everybody and time for them to wake up, I'm going to go out that
3 door real quick, because if you remember right, there's a deadline
4 on the 15th now every month.

5 Yeah. We'll -- however before 5:00 o'clock, I get out of
6 here, we will have beat that deadline. We're up to date on
7 everything in that office. Some things in that office, we are
8 actually ahead of, in that we've -- developed a system to prebook
9 certain revenues that within the state are a problem right now.

10 One of them is a very large -- fairly large revenue. That's
11 our monthly consolidated tax.

12 Some process at the Department of Taxation has changed. And
13 we are at times two and three weeks behind receiving that revenue
14 before we get the necessary backup.

15 And I think, as most of us are aware, when my office doesn't
16 have backup, I can stand on my head or do any other type of
17 strange thing and it still won't -- will not get posted. And
18 rightfully so because the auditors will come and say, what's
19 behind this?

20 So, anyway, with that -- certain revenues, we know each month
21 how much they will be. We know we receive them. So we can
22 actually book the revenue and then not hound, but maybe get in
23 touch with, who we need backup from so that we can actually get --
24 you know, sometimes it's a little difficult because what it
25 creates is a little bit more accounting because if we pay a
26 certain entity \$53.50 and it turns out to be \$53.47, you know, we
27 screw it up. But that has been a real help with our office
28 because at the end of the month when you do things like maybe
29 reconciliations, you don't have a laundry list and sometimes
30 hundreds or maybe even over a million dollars in reconciliation
31 items. It'll clean itself up.

32 The same thing with water/sewer and gate fees. We can
33 anticipate when we're going to receive a lot of those revenues.

34 So we book them in. We confirm them, usually within a day
35 or two, and then it goes out to you, Tammy, so that you don't
36 have to answer those people on the phone that are really happy
37 because they got a past due bill.

38 So it -- our team has really stepped up. And there's been a
39 lot of change. And there's going to be a lot of change in output.

40 One of the biggest things was our new open-door policy.

1 Funny, a lot of people are still afraid to come in there for
2 whatever reason. It's kind of like the library, I guess, or
3 something. But the back door into the hall is no longer under a
4 doorbell or under lock and key.

5 If you really want to come in and be entertained -- or not,
6 feel free to come in.

7 So in closing, if there's anything you see in the service
8 that my office gives to you, as a department head, as --

9 Tammy, if there's something we're not getting quite
10 right -- you're not usually shy about telling us -- tell us.

11 We actually do have the ability to take credit cards now
12 countywide. There's a couple of Nexus that aren't in place. And
13 the next thing I'm moving on to is getting those Nexus in place.

14 I think we've got the sheriff's department live. You folks
15 went live on GovNet. And I think we finally got all of our test
16 revenues verified. And we've got staff ready and waiting to see
17 these revenues come in, and they can -- we can accurately account
18 for them.

19 So, with that, any questions? And chastisements?

20 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thank you, Gene.

21 CHAIRMAN MILLS: All right. Thanks, Gene.

22 GENE ETCHEVERRY: Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Appreciate it.

24 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN MILLS: You ready for a break?

26 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yep.

27 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Are you ready for a break?

28 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Yeah. We'll take a --

29 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: Are we going to break at 5:00 for
30 lunch?

31 CHAIRMAN MILLS: They're going to --

32 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: For dinner?

33 CHAIRMAN MILLS: They're going to bring some food in here.

34 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: Oh. Okay. Good.

35 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: All right, Austin.

36 CHAIRMAN MILLS: We'll take a -- we'll take a short break.

37
38 (Break taken from 4:27 p.m. to 4:39 p.m.)

39
40 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- back to order. And we'll move on to

1 the recorder.

2
3 (Simultaneous indiscernible conversations.)
4

5 LESLEY BUNCH: Lesley Bunch, the Lander County recorder.
6 Welcome, everybody, this evening.

7 I'm just going to go over some of the things that I have
8 upgraded in the Recorder's Office.

9 I have two full-time jobs going on in our office. One is
10 the recorder; one is the DMV.

11 So I'm going to address them separately, short but sweet.
12 And if you have any questions, please feel free to ask me.

13 I think you all know what a recorder's office does. And I
14 think you all know the limitations we have with the DMV.

15 And if you don't, I'm more than willing to explain them to
16 you. But I won't make you sit through that because you
17 basically know.

18 Since I got into the office, we were pretty far behind.
19 And one of my goals was to bring it current. We need -- we need
20 to be able to be in conjunction with all of the other counties
21 within the state. And that's what my goal was.

22 So we started with e-filing. And we signed up with
23 Simplifile and CSC, which is Corporation Service Company. They
24 do e-filing, which is online filing.

25 I got it -- a certificate of -- of achievement for
26 excellence in the e-filing from CSC, which I'm quite proud of.

27 We ha- -- I went back -- we went back and copied all the
28 documents from 1862 forward. We have all of those locked away
29 in perpetual storage, which is in Sandy, Utah, so that if any
30 devastation happens, we don't lose anything. We keep it
31 constantly updated as current as possible so that if anything
32 were to happen to us or the building or whatever, none of our
33 documents are ever lost.

34 We've gone through digitizing, which is a -- a different --
35 a different direction so that we could get all of that
36 information from 1862 forward on the computers so that if you
37 need to look up any document that was recorded from 1862
38 forward, you could go into the computer and find it.

39 Right now we're at 1966 forward. We will have 1862. I am
40 reassured it will be in within three weeks.

1 So we -- it will be really great because then you can look
2 anything up you want.

3 You still have to pay for the -- the official copies. But
4 you can get unofficial copies if you need them off -- but you
5 have to have a computer to do that.

6 Let's see what else?

7 We changed -- we were with High Desert, which took care of
8 our books. I still process by book. Even though books don't
9 truly exist, it keeps -- it keeps records fresh and clear so you
10 can tell exactly what is where. And so when you're looking up
11 something, you can look by book page. That's kind of been
12 tradition forever. And we stuck with that.

13 We're going to a new system. I'm not sure it's going to
14 stay that way. But right now if you -- you can go in and look
15 up anything by book and page or by name. But a lot of people do
16 look up their information by book and page.

17 We switched systems. We were with High Desert. We went
18 with Precision Document Imaging. We saved \$6,000, just by doing
19 that, a year.

20 I changed the scanners in our office. We had maintenance
21 agreements on it. They were \$1500 apiece. I found a different
22 company through PDI, which is the same person that pro- -- that
23 processes our books. They charge \$400 a scanner. We have four
24 scanners. So that's \$1600 a year instead of 1500 per. So we
25 saved money there.

26 As you know, ADS is going away, which is for everybody that
27 had it. There was about 12 counties that were on ADS. The
28 others were on different companies. And since they're going
29 away, we've gone with Tyler Eagle. They are -- we are in
30 process. And thanks to the assessor's IT side, they worked very
31 hard to get our servers up and going. So we should be matched
32 with them by the end of this week so Tyler can come in to our
33 server and set up their system. And we should be online this
34 year in August. By August -- the end of August, we should be up
35 and going in our new system.

36 So that's good. That's good news because that's quite a
37 transition.

38 I'm currently on the board of the CFOA, which is the County
39 Fiscal Officers Association.

40 We are -- we are set up finally in the recording office to

1 do credit cards. So you can charge on your credit card instead
2 of have to have cash. We are going with that.

3 Let's see.

4 I'm going to switch over to DMV. We do just -- DMV's a
5 little different. It's a contract with the -- with the state
6 that the commission and myself are signed on.

7 We provide basic DMV services in our office. That is
8 basically controlled by the state. So there's not a lot of
9 upgrades and -- I can't do a lot with it to change it. It's
10 pretty well set by the state. We have to abide by the laws.
11 They're governed by legislation just like we are.

12 We are now set up to do credit cards and have been for a
13 couple of years. But for a long time it was cash or check. Now
14 we can do credit cards.

15 We added a new pod in Austin. So you can get your
16 three-year trailer tags if you want them. You can reregister or
17 register them that way. So that updated Austin a little bit.

18 And we got Austin a new scanner. Their scanner was 19- --
19 from 1972. So you can go into Austin's office and -- no.
20 They're completely -- they're completely caught up to where we
21 are. We keep them -- we keep all the information there. So if
22 you need to look something up, all of that information is in
23 Austin and available to you.

24 And right now we are updating Austin's office because
25 they -- they need things. They need chairs and a desk and some,
26 you know, just some practical things that have been overlooked
27 throughout the years that they just absolutely need.

28 For my future plans we are going to be having a lot of
29 training in Tyler Eagle, which is the new -- the new system.

30 Washoe County's been on it for a long time. We're going to
31 send employees over to work for a few days, just to get the hang
32 of it. There's also training that Tyler comes in and gives us.
33 But it would be nice to know what you're working with when we
34 get there.

35 We did a lot of research on it. It was a really tough
36 decision. A lot of the counties went with Tyler Eagle. And so
37 we and the county -- a lot of the offices in the county were
38 going with Tyler Eagle -- Eagle. So to simplify things we went
39 with the same. And they're a great company. It's just new.
40 Everybody loves new -- new systems.

1 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Hey, Lesley, did you say Washoe's
2 been on that for a while?
3 LESLEY BUNCH: Oh, for twelve years.
4 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Oh, wow.
5 LESLEY BUNCH: So they've been -- they've been really
6 instrumental --
7 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Right.
8 LESLEY BUNCH: -- in -- in a lot of it too. And so we went
9 and researched by going in -- I've seen it and worked with them
10 a little bit on it. And it -- it looked user friendly. So --
11 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Cool.
12 LESLEY BUNCH: -- it should be good.
13 Let's see. Oh, for the DMV we hired a -- another new em-
14 -- full-time employee. And so now that she's getting, you know,
15 real trained, we wanted to make sure that everybody was trained
16 on everything. And for a while we were closing our office and
17 everyone was going to lunch at the same time because we had new
18 employees in the recording side and new employees on the DMV
19 side. And now everybody's up and going. So our office will be
20 open from 8:00 to 5:00 every day.
21 DMV, we're looking at 8:00 in the morning till 4:30 in the
22 afternoon. And we have to -- or 4:00 -- 4:00 to 4:30 in the
23 afternoon. Because we have to have the time to close.
24 And it doesn't take too long most days to close the DMV
25 out. But on occasion, if you have problems, you have to be
26 out of the system by 5:00. So that's why we have an earlier end
27 of day.
28 We're just going to continue to train our staff in both areas
29 so everybody can do both jobs, so no one's not left not knowing
30 anything.
31 And really love my job. And I really thank everybody. If
32 you guys have any questions about it -- we've had a lot of new
33 things. We've updated our systems. We are forward-thinking. And
34 that's -- that's it. I'm a forward-thinking person. I'm not a
35 backward-thinking person. So that's all I got.
36 But if there's anything I can do, just let me know. And my
37 door's always open too.
38 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Awesome. Thank you, --
39 LESLEY BUNCH: Okay.
40 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: -- Lesley.

1 LESLEY BUNCH: Thank you, --
2 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Thank you, Lesley.
3 LESLEY BUNCH: -- everyone.
4 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Appreciate it.
5 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Thank you, Lesley.
6 CHAIRMAN MILLS: We'll move to Town of Austin.
7 COMMISSIONER WAITS: So since we don't have a mayor or a --
8 a chair, do you want me to give the update on Austin? It'd be
9 --
10 CHAIRMAN MILLS: That'd be --
11 COMMISSIONER WAITS: -- s- --
12 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- that'd be fine if you would.
13 COMMISSIONER WAITS: -- since it's my district.
14 Okay. Just a few things, bring you up to date.
15 This year we actually are -- went with -- last year -- a
16 new contractor. We -- we contracted with CC Communications for
17 our TV. We found out we were so terribly outdated and losing
18 the system so many times.
19 So once we got in there, there was so many things that had
20 to be done. And they're -- they're currently in the middle of
21 all that. But that's exciting because they're bringing
22 everything up to date and --
23 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: How's it working?
24 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Well, it's still off a little bit at
25 8:00 o'clock at night because he still hasn't replaced
26 everything. But we've got the POs for everything. And -- and
27 it should be done very, very soon and brought up.
28 As far as the courthouse, we've had some new things with
29 that. We've been working with Anna. We've got new blinds. And
30 we're working on the -- the breakroom.
31 And the justice court takes charge -- credit cards now. So
32 that's always good.
33 A few things we're trying to update a little bit as we go
34 along. Our elevator was out for a long time so Anna handled that
35 for us and got us all working again. That's -- that's a big loss
36 because it's a long ways up those steps for a lot of different
37 people.
38 The cemetery that we lost so many trees in over a period of
39 time. And -- and we're working right now with Cooperative
40 Extension on a grant for that. So we're bringing that before

1 the commissioners to okay that and bring that up to date.

2 And we did put in a new flagpole last year. It was a
3 beautiful flagpole with all the mechanics inside when you raise
4 the flag. So that's -- that's a -- a great addition.

5 The geo- -- geothermal plant, McGinness Hills, which is one
6 of the largest out there for Ormat, is in their third phase. And
7 they're just putting in all the different contracts now. The
8 drillers and all the different contractors are coming in. So we
9 will be full absolutely everywhere from RV parks to motels to
10 apartments to wherever anybody can do anything.

11 Along with that they're doing Highway 50 from Austin all
12 the way to the county line in Churchill. So that's 25 miles.
13 And those folks are here at the same time.

14 In fact one contractor -- contractor called us and said he
15 had 70 employees he wanted to bring. And I'm going, my goodness.
16 They -- they shouldn't be there at any time at all with that 70
17 employees. But they're going to be traveling great distances.
18 But things will be exciting all summer long there.

19 Our EMS has really come a long ways. And I'm going to let
20 Kim do that part. But the best thing is it really is -- is
21 they're there for us. It's a combination of volunteer and still
22 some salaried. So that's working really well. And I'll let her
23 bring you up to date.

24 One of the sad notes, of course, has been our school. We
25 had 22 students and that has dropped tremendously. And so we're
26 maybe getting a few people here that are retiring. But it still
27 isn't the -- the younger folks and the youth. So that's --
28 that's still a sad note. And we're -- have to --

29 COMMISSIONER CLARK: How many -- how many students do you
30 have there now?

31 COMMISSIONER WAITS: I think it was eight the last time we
32 counted.

33 COMMISSIONER CLARK: From 22?

34 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Yeah.

35 The senior center, which is always our pride, and they've
36 been handling that as they need repairs with the new roof and so
37 forth. And they have a wonderful reputation for really, really
38 good food. And so -- and -- and it's a beautiful building. So
39 we're -- we're very proud of that. And that's -- that's one of
40 our pluses.

1 The swimming pool, which was not open last year for several
2 reasons. We needed a new boiler, which we now have. And the
3 other part was we didn't really get anybody hired because we
4 don't have the youth there to do our instructors and our -- our
5 lifeguards.

6 So this year they've got a head start on that. And we
7 expect some wonderful things. And the swimming pool will be
8 open this summer. They're ahead of the game on that one. So
9 that should be good.

10 The clinic, which closed down because they couldn't find
11 the physicians and -- and the staff to help with that. But they
12 have committed to us to be open. They're looking at March. And
13 so --

14 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Okay.

15 COMMISSIONER WAITS: -- we're making -- and -- and we had a
16 lot of problems with the -- the water freezing and -- and pipes
17 breaking and such. So they did a lot of repairs last year with
18 that. And we're all set to go. So we're looking at hopefully
19 March for that one.

20 The airport, which is on separately, of course. But some
21 good things with that, of course, is not only is it exciting,
22 everything that's been done, but we've actually -- people
23 like -- we've got one that's an engineer that flies in very,
24 very frequently that works at Ormat at the geothermal. So, I
25 mean, that's our future. And we're looking forward to all the
26 good things that are happening there.

27 The biking. Because we've always been known for biking, over
28 the last 25 years, actually. And we got a new grant for that.
29 The Chamber of Commerce is -- is working on that part with us.
30 And -- and they will be redoing the trail signs that have
31 disappeared and that have needed replacement. And we'll be
32 refreshing a lot of the trails.

33 Along with that, the other thing that we're excited about,
34 which has come from the American Legion Post 45 and the
35 commissioners and that's our veterans statue and beautiful
36 memorial. Right now there's a tentative date of April 21st for
37 the actual dedication. But it is up, and it is beautiful.

38 And so Austin's looking forward to a lot of good things
39 this summer.

40 Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Thank you. Any questions go -- about
3 what's going on in Austin?

4 Okay. Let's move to Town of Kingston.

5 DON HAINES: Hi. My name is Don Haines. I'm chairman of
6 the town board from Kingston. And with me in Austin is Rosalie
7 Zamora, the clerk. And present in your building is another town
8 board member, Steve Smith.

9 The Kingston Town Board is technically three boards. We do
10 the Kingston Town Water Utility. We do the Town of Kingston. And
11 we do the Town of Kingston Fire Company.

12 The Town of Kingston Water Utility. Currently, we're doing a
13 valve replacement project. We plan to start on February 20. The
14 project is being funded by the Kingston Town's Water Capital
15 Improvement Fund that was required by AB 198 and past grants of
16 \$135,000.

17 In the future we're looking to find an alternative water
18 source for the town. An application has been submitted to the
19 Lander County for a grant for the test well, with Kingston finding
20 alternative funding or self-funding the engineering and hydrology
21 for this project.

22 Once a viable well is found, construction funding will be
23 sought, the Nevada state revolving state drinking water fund.

24 This will be an ongoing project depending on funding and
25 grants.

26 Two water system spurs are antiquated and need to be
27 replaced. We have approximately 2,000 feet of 6-inch C900 pipe
28 fittings and two fire hydrants that are needed. Both of these
29 spurs will be installed by the utility staff but will be required
30 to be engineered before installation is required by the Bureau of
31 Safe Drinking Water. Funds will come from Utilities Capital
32 Replacement Fund.

33 We hope to do this in either 2018 or 2019 unless they fail
34 before then.

35 The Town of Kingston. We have been making improvements in
36 the Lee Bakker Park, Kingston Orchard. The aim is to have more
37 tables, more paving. We had paving around the tables to protect
38 the sod and the -- save water.

39 We continue to try to get water rights on the creek to use as
40 the part for irrigation.

1 The pond was flooded last year during the flash
2 floods (indiscernible) and our crawfish. The pond needs to be
3 dredged and dirt work to keep flood waters from entering the
4 pond again.

5 The solar aerator that was granted to us by Lander County
6 for this year has been delivered. And we hope to have it
7 installed in the spring.

8 Improvements for the park and the pond are dependent on grant
9 money, as the town's revenue for budget is so small every year.
10 All work done in the park and the pond has been volunteer work.

11 The carpeting that was granted by the town of -- for the town
12 by Lander County has been installed. It looks great.

13 Lander County Road and Bridge South will be creating better
14 parking at our community hall in February.

15 We hope to try to get a new roof. Our community hall was
16 old. And we -- our roof is having problems. We had it inspected.
17 And we hope to find out what -- exactly what repairs are needed.
18 Right now trying to find someone to come out and inspect it is
19 difficult. We will have to have grant money to do this. And I
20 don't know when we'll ask for that.

21 The inside of the hall needs new drywall, new paint, new
22 fixtures, and new kitchen equipment.

23 The water office was retextured, taped, and painted, new
24 blinds installed in 2015.

25 We hope to continue doing -- improving for the town hall.

26 Town of Kingston Fire Company. We have a new fire chief,
27 Chance Ellis. He is aggressively pursuing training for ten
28 members of the company. EVAC -- or EVOC training is scheduled for
29 March. Online Fire Rescue Academy is being considered for
30 training purposes.

31 We received a grant from Nevada Department of Forestry for
32 new wildland fire clothing and hope to put in this year for new
33 fire shelters.

34 Our call volume has doubled in 2017. We anticipate it to
35 double again this year. We have been dispatched to calls as far
36 as Churchill County and Eureka County on Highway 50. We also take
37 calls in Austin and Lower Smoky Valley.

38 We're anxiously awaiting our new fire truck that you procured
39 for us. Thank you very much. It should be in our possession, we
40 hope, by the end of the month or next month. We are grateful for

1 this addition to our equipment, including generators and tools
2 that came with it.

3 In 2015 Round Mountain Gold donated funds for new extri- --
4 extrication equipment, which has been used many times.

5 The fire company purchased a hydraulic extrication ram with
6 funding money -- fundraising money we made in 2017.

7 Our equipment is in the process of being inventoried and
8 maintenance is taking place.

9 Chief Ellis is currently attempting to find another building
10 for the Town of Kingston Fire Company. We need more room for our
11 vehicles since we now have EMS Rescue 2 in our building.

12 There is a hangar on the airport that's up for sale. And
13 we're working on funding -- or finding funding options for that.

14 Our fire company's funding comes primarily from grants from
15 Lander County and fundraising.

16 This year we only had enough money in the budget to give the
17 fire company \$5,500, which is not enough for them to operate. So
18 donation and fundraisers are very important.

19 I'd like to invite everybody to the St. Patrick's Day corn
20 beef and cabbage fundraiser on Saturday, March 17, and our annual
21 fundraising picnic on Saturday, August 4.

22 Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Thank you, Don.

25 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Thank you.

26 Anybody have any comments or questions for Kingston?

27 Okay.

28 Thank you.

29 DON HAINES: Thank you.

30 CHAIRMAN MILLS: We'll move -- we'll move to Ag Extension.

31 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: We'll chalk Lisa up to be with Sadie
32 here.

33 LISA TAYLOR: Sadie did an excellent job. She set the bar
34 pretty high. I'll tell you.

35 I want to thank you for the opportunity to share
36 information about our Lander County Cooperative Extension
37 service.

38 My name is Lisa Taylor. I've been here for a little over a
39 year. And the team that works with me, I'm blessed to have
40 Charlene Fetterly -- she's our community instructor that works

1 with youth -- as well as Shannon Berumen. And she's our
2 executive secretary.

3 And if you look at Lander County Cooperative Extension, I
4 hope you'll also think about the University of Nevada Reno
5 because they are our umbrella organization of which we certainly
6 receive not only support but many things that help us do our job
7 better here in our county.

8 And there are 16 other groups, one for each county, in our
9 state so that we are one of 17.

10 And we'd like to thank, certainly, the citizens of Lander
11 County. We definitely want to look at the community businesses.
12 We want to thank the government entities that we work with, also
13 individuals that help us with our schools, and those individuals
14 that we work with on programs such as shooting sports and other
15 activities that happen after school.

16 We also work with other higher education institutions like
17 Great Basin College. And we have our health agencies and
18 organizations, not only next door, but certainly our hospital
19 district, our people down in Austin, as well as here and
20 Kingston. And then also it's our county employees people like
21 Keith Westengard and the staff here as well as our county
22 commissioners. We'd like to thank you. Because you all are a
23 part of our team. And we are here to serve you.

24 Now, when you think about what the University of Nevada
25 Cooperative Extension does, think about it as one of 50
26 organizations across the nation or what we call a land grant
27 institution.

28 We are to bring research, education, and outreach to every
29 state. And so we have a team of people that we call upon to do
30 things like assisting different people in rural settings, such as
31 when we're looking at the -- putting in the trees at the cemetery.

32 We're actually working with our Nevada forestry department to
33 find out what trees would be most applicable and would stay the
34 longest. So we're working with those type of entities. So it is
35 a partnership.

36 It's also programs in our area schools. We have been
37 working with some different instructors to actually provide
38 assistance and different efforts such as classroom activities
39 and programs.

40 Now, I go out regularly to examine yards. We go out and

1 take samples and look at some of our crop lands to make sure
2 that the salinity in our soils can actually be addressed. Or it
3 could be our public spaces. And these sorts of things we can
4 do, such as a community garden, which we've recently been
5 talking about with some young individuals to provide further
6 opportunities related to that.

7 Also it's feeding and livestock. We want to -- we've been
8 asked recently by citizens to do a poultry-related training on how
9 people could not only raise poultry but potentially have a
10 business with that regard. And also partnering with community
11 organizations.

12 On a regular basis we work with many individuals. I go
13 regularly, for example, to our -- our senior citizens' centers.
14 We're going to be planning on doing some programs with them. And
15 so it's trying to reach out and find out what would be best for
16 those that work with them.

17 And also it's looking at the youth skills and the leadership
18 development. Because the youth are our future for our community.
19 And there's, of course, many others.

20 And I'd like to share with you just one example of our
21 programs. Because we recently jumped out within the past year to
22 look at how to create opportunities for youth in the summer.

23 And not only did we find that this was a great opportunity to
24 pilot this concept, because it was one that I hadn't done before
25 nor had any of my staff, but also to look at how Austin needed
26 a -- a youth opportunity and that they reached out their hearts to
27 us to actually help make this happen.

28 And if you'll notice, we had some excellent sponsors. And
29 those individuals, without their support we could not have
30 conducted this activity.

31 And so that's why these are the youth as well as several of
32 us who were involved from the extension side. And these are kids
33 not only with their cameras, but many of them used their cell
34 phones as cameras.

35 And Trish and Deon Reynolds. For this particular project, we
36 invited these artists to help. They're nationally renowned
37 photographers. And they were the ones that helped us in this
38 effort.

39 And it was a four-day camp. And we had twelve program
40 sponsors. You might notice some -- certainly our county provided

1 the leadership to allow us to do that, as well as our chambers of
2 commerce. And as you'll notice, there's also a tourism authority
3 here in Lander County that helped us with funding in addition to
4 the Nevada Arts Council.

5 Just want to show you -- we asked youth to use their photo
6 voice. Tell us what you think is historic about your community.
7 And initially many of them hadn't even been to most of the areas
8 in Austin in a great extent. They may not have even been to the
9 museum. They may not have actually been in actually Stokes
10 Castle. Or they may not have learned or known more about
11 St. Augustine's, which is a cultural center that allowed us to
12 have our program there.

13 So you'll notice -- and I'm just going to go through those
14 quickly. We had a chance to go to the -- the cemetery.

15 A -- a young man actually used his photo voice to talk about
16 some element in a store that he thought was historic. We've got
17 Stokes Castle.

18 The American flag represents America to me.

19 One of the key elements about this program was that we asked
20 them to journal or write about everything that they were learning.
21 And then we used that as a part of their opportunity to speak
22 about each of the photographs in a celebration that happened on
23 the fourth day.

24 And so when you look at these, please be aware that they were
25 the ones -- and I thought this was very appropriate. Many of us
26 would've walked right past this old stove. But he said, There was
27 a man who owned a stove one day. The stove was cooking beans.
28 And he went to take the beans out. And the latch broke. And then
29 he put it outside and left it there forever.

30 Well, you and I might not have come up with that. But to
31 him, it was something that caught his attention. And that's what
32 we're trying to do. We're trying to expand their horizons. We're
33 trying to give them skills that they'll use throughout a lifetime.
34 And he's, I think, just in fourth or fifth grade. So he has a
35 long time to use those skills.

36 And Carly. And this was one about a miner shop.

37 And, of course, we could not have done this -- and this is
38 the way we work cooperative extension. We look at community
39 members that can help us guide and direct what can happen, not
40 only for these youth, but to use their skills and talents in

1 shaping these experiences, not only for youth but certainly for
2 adults as well. Because you have many opportunities to
3 volunteer.

4 And then we also had community speakers. So we went and
5 found, actually, a mine shaft in the back of one of the buildings
6 that we were told about its history.

7 We learned also about taking the youth to the museums and
8 what were there in Austin.

9 And certainly we had other contributors that helped with
10 nutritious snacks and other activities.

11 And that's what the optimal opportunity we try to provide
12 is that we take youth, we connect them with their community, and
13 we also help the community see how we can all work together to
14 make a better county.

15 Now, I will tell you that we are looking at and we have found
16 the opportunities to provide a comprehensive program.

17 So whether you're talking about -- these are six areas that
18 are critical and are identified by law that we are to do in our
19 state.

20 And so as you look at agriculture, we offer a variety of
21 different programs in addition to what I lead. And so we have
22 individuals that come for the Herds & Harvest program. That's one
23 that actually does education about different loans, different
24 activities just that individuals that want to be agriculture
25 producers can access.

26 We have the Cattlemen's update.

27 But then we think about economic development. I have the
28 opportunity to serve in the LEDA board. And, of course, it's
29 been a great experience for me to understand more about what's
30 happening in that endeavor and then to serve and support in that
31 way.

32 We also were going to be doing -- we're exploring doing
33 customer service training to increase the opportunities for people
34 in our community and to bring more people to increase the wealth
35 of our area.

36 Horticulture. You know, on a regular basis, or at least I
37 hope you know, that we have the Grow Your Own series both fall
38 and spring. And we do have one coming up. And that's going to
39 be starting on April 3rd.

40 So I'd en- -- encourage you look for our press releases.

1 And we also have some information we're going to be sharing in
2 other ways. But that's done at no charge. And it is one that
3 you as citizens are paying for as well.

4 And then we are doing some different advisory. So if do
5 you need or you have some problems with your tree or things in
6 your yard, you might call me. And then that way we might be
7 able to find solutions to those problems.

8 We have 4-H youth development. I did already talk about
9 the youth photo camp. But we're offering it here in Battle
10 Mountain in June. And then we're hoping again to cycle back to
11 Austin, related to something like this in the next year.

12 Health and nutrition. We're exploring the potential of doing
13 an exercise for seniors.

14 And we also do our radon program. So if any of you need
15 your radon kit, it's still free of charge for another couple
16 weeks. And so I do have a couple if someone would like to take
17 one home tonight. And, of course, you know that radon is that
18 odorless, tasteless gas that can be very debilitating to your
19 lungs. And so it's one you can find out whether or not it's in
20 your home. That is just through February 28th, however.

21 Natural resources. You might know that we do a range camp
22 here at Smith Creek Ranch. It's a statewide program offered
23 through extension as well as the partnership with the BLM and
24 the forestry service.

25 And so as you think about these different programs, I hope
26 that if you have something creative or something that you'd like
27 us to offer, we're more than happy to look at that and see how
28 we can make sure that you're getting research-based information
29 and that we can support what's best for you and to increase the
30 quality of life here in our county.

31 That's it.

32 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thank you, Lisa.

33 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Thank you, Lisa.

34 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Thank you. Any questions for Lisa?

35 If you can't tell, she's a great resource for a lot of
36 different things. So as you go back to your boards and stuff
37 and you need help with something, she could be an answer to some
38 of your questions.

39 Keith, the food is ready?

40 Is it set out? Or --

1 KEITH WESTENGARD: Right outside the door.
2 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Might as well --
3 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Okay.
4 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: -- bring it in.
5 CHAIRMAN MILLS: We'll take a break for a few minutes.
6 We've got some food for you outside. Go grab something. We'll
7 come back in --

8
9 (Break taken from 5:14 p.m. to 5:36 p.m.)
10

11 CHAIRMAN MILLS: And so we've done 11 groups in 2 1/2
12 hours. We're doing okay.

13 I would say that the commission's --

14 COMMISSIONER WAITS: (Indiscernible.)

15 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- willing to stay here all night if
16 that's what it takes. That's fine. But the time has -- the
17 time is yours to do with as you wish.

18 COMMISSIONER WAITS: It's this one.

19 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Watch this.

20 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Make that --

21 COMMISSIONER WAITS: This is --

22 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- comment.

23 COMMISSIONER WAITS: -- from Kingston.

24 DAN BALDINI: Dan Baldini with the Battle Mountain Fire
25 Department. And I brought my visual aid today.

26 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Awesome.

27 DAN BALDINI: Chief Bart Negro from the fire department.

28 BART NEGRO: Taking too much time.

29 DAN BALDINI: And then there's the assistant chief. Ron
30 Unger's also present.

31 BART NEGRO: We've got a new tanker ordered. Some -- what
32 are they? -- cordless extrication equipment's ordered. And
33 Dan's got a list of the calls that we've been on.

34 DAN BALDINI: Right now at the -- the number that the
35 commissioners have allowed for the volunteer fire department is
36 25 members. We right now have 23 active members. We're in the
37 process of interviewing first applications at this time for two
38 positions. That position comes in. They have a six-month
39 probationary period. And then through the membership, after the
40 six months they're voted in either active or they can extend

1 their probation or they're not considered anymore. So we're in
2 the process of doing that.

3 In 2017 we had a total of 91 callouts that the fire
4 department responded to. And if I broke those down, 26 of them
5 were structure fires. There were 28 vehicle fires, thirty-two
6 wildland fires, two gas-related incidents, and two
7 electrical-related incidents.

8 The membership breaks down. And I -- I broke it down a
9 little fur- -- further than that. But that's for the -- the
10 meeting. And like I said, we have 23 active firefighters.

11 We did have a meeting with the -- with the commissioners
12 and Ms. -- where did she go?

13 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Cindy.

14 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: Cindy.

15 DAN BALDINI: -- Cindy just the other day. And I think we
16 made a lot of good progress with them as far as looking into the
17 future for the fire department.

18 Like Bart had said, that there's a new tanker in there.
19 And we -- we discussed, I think, a new -- a new brush truck
20 that's in the work in progress further down the road for us.

21 But right now the state of the fire department is -- is
22 relatively good.

23 We thank you guys for everything. We thank the community
24 and all the -- everybody for the support that you give us on the
25 New Year's raffle. I think it was our 81st this year.

26 BART NEGRO: (indiscernible.)

27 DAN BALDINI: The 81st New Year's raffle. And I wasn't
28 here, but I heard it was a very successful event -- and it is
29 every year with the help from you guys and the community and
30 everybody else --

31 Ron, do you have anything else?

32 SHERIFF RON UNGER: No, you're doing a fine job, Dan.

33 DAN BALDINI: Okay. That's -- that's where we're at. And
34 -- and we also talked to Keith a little bit about bringing in
35 and doing that inventory thing. And -- and we are poised to
36 give us much support and help to do that with you guys moving
37 forward.

38 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Thank you.

39 DAN BALDINI: On that, --

40 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Is there --

1 DAN BALDINI: -- can I --
2 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: -- anything you --
3 DAN BALDINI: -- can I --
4 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: -- guys need?
5 DAN BALDINI: -- turn my visual aid off now?
6 COMMISSIONER WAITS: We --
7 BART NEGRO: (Indiscernible.)
8 COMMISSIONER WAITS: -- we appreciate --
9 BART NEGRO: (Indiscernible.)
10 COMMISSIONER WAITS: -- all you do.
11 DAN BALDINI: (Indiscernible.)
12 CHAIRMAN MILLS: On that inventory thing, just --
13 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Yeah.
14 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- just a thought. If you do have
15 anything you need to get rid of, we're supposed to be doing a
16 surplus sale coming up. So if you need to surplus anything --
17 DAN BALDINI: Uh-huh.
18 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- if -- while we go through that
19 inventory, might be a good time to --
20 BART NEGRO: Clean up.
21 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- take advantage of that. Clean some
22 stuff --
23 BART NEGRO: Now's the --
24 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- out.
25 DAN BALDINI: Yeah. With the weather breaking, it's a
26 little -- the winter's real tough on --
27 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Yeah.
28 DAN BALDINI: -- equipment and -- and everything. And --
29 and the brush fires are real tough on equipment. But, yeah, we
30 can certainly do that.
31 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Okay. Thank you.
32 That's a lot of --
33 DAN BALDINI: Bart, anything else?
34 CHAIRMAN MILLS: I'm -- I'm surprised how many cars burn
35 up. That's amazing.
36 DAN BALDINI: I'm sorry?
37 CHAIRMAN MILLS: I'm surprised how many cars burn up.
38 DAN BALDINI: Well, it -- a vehicle-related could be
39 extrication. It could also be assisting the -- the EMS or the
40 Sheriff's --

1 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Okay.
2 DAN BALDINI: -- Office, rollovers or things of that
3 nature.
4 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Stuff --
5 DAN BALDINI: It's just --
6 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- on the --
7 DAN BALDINI: -- that we --
8 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- stuff on the --
9 DAN BALDINI: -- we --
10 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- highway.
11 DAN BALDINI: -- we log it in as the vehicle response.
12 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Okay. Interesting.
13 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Well, thank you so much. We --
14 DAN BALDINI: Okay.
15 COMMISSIONER WAITS: -- appreciate what you do.
16 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: There are a handful of cars that
17 catch on fire too, though.
18 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Yeah.
19 DAN BALDINI: Yeah. They're -- they're --
20 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Yeah. I hear about it once in a while,
21 but wow. Any --
22 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thank you, --
23 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- questions --
24 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: -- guys.
25 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- or comments for fire department?
26 Okay.
27 SHERIFF RON UNGER: Move on.
28 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Let's go to Building. Anna?
29 ANNA PENOLA: Good evening, everyone.
30 I'm Anna Penola, building official for Lander County.
31 I'm tasked with the job to enforce the ordinance and the
32 IR- -- the international resident code and the International
33 Building Code.
34 I'm making lots of friends every day.
35 And the job -- to not just to enforce the codes and be
36 people's pains in the butt. My job is to make sure things are
37 done correctly for life safety. And these are in the book for a
38 reason because of catastrophic events that have happened: fire,
39 death, or whatever. And that's what my job is. It's not to be
40 pains.

1 I have -- I'm in charge of the janitorial staff.

2 I'm in charge of the county maintenance on all the county
3 buildings. I do inventory on most of them.

4 I'm involved with the Little League and making sure they're
5 happy with the fields and facilities.

6 I can do -- I make great efforts to go to Austin at least
7 one -- every other week to see what the needs are.

8 I have put in new flooring in the senior center, new
9 equipment. I try to take -- new blinds in the courthouse. So
10 I'm there to hear their concerns and get them what they need and
11 what they deserve.

12 I work really hard. And I have a good rapport with
13 community here and in Austin.

14 Everything's workable. I'm easy to work with.

15 I answer every call before I go home. My phone's on till
16 9:00 o'clock. And there isn't anything we can't do together and
17 get through a lot of these issues.

18 My goals are to improve these Lander County buildings. One
19 that comes to mind is the VFW building that you guys assigned.
20 It looks fabulous. And I took Commissioner Clark there. He was
21 impressed. And I think if -- these buildings are good for any
22 entity. And if we can keep them up and keep them strong, we
23 don't -- we're not going to have a problem. And so that's my
24 goal is to keep everything up to date and put it on a cycle and
25 make sure everybody's happy and we can do what we can for them.

26 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Awesome. Thank you, Anna.

27 ANNA PENOLA: Okay. Thank you.

28 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Keep up --

29 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Thank --

30 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Thank --

31 COMMISSIONER WAITS: -- you.

32 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: -- the good --

33 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- you.

34 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: -- work.

35 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Marla?

36 MARLA SAM: Building permits.

37 ANNA PENOLA: Yes.

38 MARLA SAM: Okay. Is there a list of -- do you have a list
39 of what is required for a build- -- you know, I'm going to build
40 steps or I'm going to do something, do you have a list of what

1 requires a building permit?

2 ANNA PENOLA: It's about 15-, 20-page thing in the code
3 book that tells you what requires. Anything electrical,
4 plumbing, not just changing light bulbs or changing toilets is
5 no big deal. Anything structural. Anything that has to do with
6 life safety.

7 And I can work up a -- a list for you. But you can always
8 call and I'll let you know.

9 MARLA SAM: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Okay.

11 ANNA PENOLA: All right. Thanks, --

12 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Thank you, --

13 ANNA PENOLA: -- guys.

14 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- again.

15 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Community health nurse.

17 ABBY BURKHART: Hi.

18 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: Hi, --

19 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Hello.

20 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: -- Abby.

21 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Hello.

22 ABBY BURKHART: Abby Burkhardt, Lander County community
23 health.

24 I do lots of things. I work with teenagers. I make babies
25 cry. And I deal with the dirty, yucky germs nobody else wants
26 to.

27 I am kind of the liaison, I guess, between the state and
28 the county since I'm employed technically by both. My program
29 is supported by the county and the state jointly.

30 I do -- each year I make sure that the flu POD is put on.
31 This year we hope to be a whole lot more successful than we were
32 last year. This flu season's been pretty bad. So we hope to
33 rebound and make those numbers a lot better than they were this
34 last year. That's one of my bigger community events.

35 I -- February is my favorite month because I get to go the
36 preschools and do dental varnish for the preschoolers and do a
37 little dental lesson.

38 Family planning is still currently active. So I get
39 teenagers all the way up to menopausal women.

40 We just hired a new nurse practitioner. So I'll be

1 bringing back pap services and IUDs. They'll be a little more
2 frequent in the clinic.

3 And thanks to you guys, I have private vaccines in. So
4 business will be picking up there.

5 And then we have state mandates, which are tuberculosis
6 prevention and management. STDs is a state mandate. And then
7 disease prevention and control.

8 So when there's some sort of an outbreak, the state usually
9 works with me or the county, whomever reports it, and if we need
10 to, we set up a POD and dispense whatever needs to be dispensed.

11 So --

12 But mainly I just make babies cry.

13 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Okay. Just --

14 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thank you, Abby.

15 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Just one comment on --

17 ABBY BURKHART: Sure.

18 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- community health. Indications are that
19 the state's going to quit doing community health. And that's
20 going to be brought into the county. So the county will
21 probably have to start a community health board.

22 And --

23 But I think it's our intention that we were going to
24 continue with community health. And it's important to the
25 community. And we're going to continue with that.

26 ABBY BURKHART: Thank you.

27 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: I would agree.

28 Kim?

29 KIM SCHACHT: Abby, are you working on Austin?

30 ABBY BURKHART: I'm volunteering for hospice separate of my
31 job. Yes.

32 KIM SCHACHT: Okay. Okay.

33 ABBY BURKHART: We're working to be up and running June
34 1st.

35 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Okay.

36 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thank you, Abby.

37 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Does Kim need to identify herself?

38 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Kim, you got to i- --

39 What's your name?

40 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Oh.

1 KIM SCHACHT: Oh, Kim Schacht, Lander County EMS.
2 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Thank you.
3 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thank you.
4 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Okay. Any other comments or questions for
5 community health?
6 Thank you.
7 Planning.
8 KYLA BRIGHT: John. This one's me.
9 JOHN WILLIAMS: Oh.
10 KYLA BRIGHT: (Indiscernible.)
11 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: Are you feeling better, Kyla?
12 KYLA BRIGHT: I am. I'm getting on my feet.
13 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: Good.
14 KYLA BRIGHT: Kyla Bright. I'm the Lander County community
15 planner.
16 I work on -- through my office, I'm mostly a liaison. I am
17 a liaison for LEDA, which is the Lander County Economic
18 Development Authority. And I'm also the liaison for the
19 Planning Commission.
20 We do things such as home occupations, special-use permits
21 for land, land development. When you need to do surveys,
22 splits, things of that sort.
23 We work with private landowners and sometimes businesses
24 looking to come into Lander County that need assistance.
25 Basically they're our first stop. They come to me. I tell
26 them one way or another, put them to the board that they need to
27 go to.
28 I also do violations, along with Anna, depending -- we kind
29 of split that workload up if they're a building violation or if
30 they're a zoning violation. Write the letters. And also make
31 sure the (indiscernible) are made.
32 We work with them. There's -- you know, as long as they
33 call and talk to us, let us know what's going on, we're -- we're
34 very helpful as far as that's doing.
35 Notice letters. Those are something I do. They're fun.
36 When people come in and they need to do any kind of development
37 on their land, I have to let every person that lives within 300
38 feet of them know what's going on in the general area.
39 Sometimes there's upwards of 200 letters I get to lick the
40 envelope and sign my name. I need to get stamped --

1 CHAIRMAN MILLS: No wonder --

2 KYLA BRIGHT: -- for those.

3 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- you don't feel good.

4 KYLA BRIGHT: Huh?

5 CHAIRMAN MILLS: No wonder you don't feel good.

6 KYLA BRIGHT: Yeah.

7 There's a lot of -- of -- of background that -- that goes
8 into this job. Things that -- that maybe I don't come forward
9 and talk to certain people about right away. And that's --
10 that's just because there are certain businesses and
11 developments that don't want you to. They want to keep it to
12 themselves until they're ready.

13 And -- and so there's a lot of confidentiality things that
14 go on in my office as well. Of course, I work with Keith on
15 them. And we find out where to go from there if it does need to
16 be addressed by the commission or -- or elsewhere.

17 So that's pretty much what I do in my office.

18 Coming up, business licenses are going to move from the
19 Assessor's Office into my office. So I will also be working
20 with those, which helps, actually, in my office because once a
21 year I get to go through and do all the home occupations. I
22 make sure I send out every single home occupation a letter,
23 which, just to let you know, this year there was about a hundred
24 home occupations. Home occupations are -- are businesses that
25 are within your homes, small businesses. So if you didn't know,
26 out there in the public, there are at least a hundred in Lander
27 County that work out of their homes. Pretty neat.

28 Special-use permits, as well, I have to adjust once a year.
29 I send them out letters. I bring them to the planning
30 commission, let them know who has said, yes, we are still going
31 forward. No, we are not. With the business licenses coming in,
32 I can also -- if someone says, yes, I have a home occupation,
33 but they don't have a business permit or a business license,
34 well, that's one of the requirements. So they can be dealt with
35 there instead of being dealt with between two offices. It makes
36 sense.

37 I'm also working with different boards, including you guys,
38 Keith himself, LEDA, to -- with just different developments that
39 are looking to come in, in order to improve the infrastructure
40 of Lander County. Most of you know what's going on there.

1 LEDA. With them, upcoming, hopefully we're going to start
2 working on a strategic economic development plan that is
3 specifically for Lander County. I'll let Shar maybe update a
4 little bit more on that. But that is part of my job, helping
5 them out, go forward with that.

6 I work with Rex Massey a lot, between him and the planning
7 commission, working on the master plan update, making sure
8 wordings are right, commas, all that good stuff, dot your i's.
9 Goes on to the various boards that need to see them, which in
10 turn the advisory boards bring to you and ultimately creates our
11 master plan, which we all intend to follow.

12 And that's pretty much it.

13 CHAIRMAN MILLS: That's right.

14 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Good job.

15 COMMISSIONER WAITS: I just have a quick question, Kyla.

16 KYLA BRIGHT: Absolutely.

17 COMMISSIONER WAITS: And I don't know if you know offhand.
18 But you -- you mentioned that you have to -- to do a lot of
19 background.

20 Could you give me an idea on your percentage of how much of
21 your day you spend in research?

22 KYLA BRIGHT: Research. That's something I did not bring
23 up to you, but --

24 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Well, you said background, and I
25 assume that was --

26 KYLA BRIGHT: -- background --

27 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Yeah.

28 KYLA BRIGHT: Background. What I meant by that is there's
29 a lot of things that people don't know. There's an upfront to
30 my job that you see and you know. But there's a lot of things
31 going behind, you know, that -- that aren't -- research being
32 one of them.

33 Research, I -- I spend a lot of time on research

34 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Can you give me, like, an idea of,
35 like, so much of your day?

36 Days are different, I know, but --

37 KYLA BRIGHT: If they are different, it's -- it depends on
38 what's happening at that point in the county. If there's -- oh,
39 gosh, I really -- I would have to really think about that and
40 get --

1 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Okay.
2 KYLA BRIGHT: -- back to you --
3 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Okay.
4 KYLA BRIGHT: -- on it.
5 There's quiet weeks. So I have the first and second
6 Wednesday of each month that I am with LEDA and planning.
7 The other two weeks of that are usually spent between
8 getting the packets, agendas, backup material and research.
9 So it -- that's kind of where I do most of my --
10 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Okay.
11 KYLA BRIGHT: -- research is within those two weeks when I
12 can.
13 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Okay. Thank you.
14 KYLA BRIGHT: Okay?
15 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thank you.
16 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Questions and comments? Input?
17 KYLA BRIGHT: Lou.
18 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Lou.
19 LOUIS LANI: Getting this young lady on board -- the work
20 that she's doing makes our job so much easier and keeps us
21 honest on the planning commission over there.
22 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Okay. Would you state --
23 LOUIS LANI: We can't afford to be --
24 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- your name for the record.
25 LOUIS LANI: -- without her.
26 KYLA BRIGHT: State your --
27 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Lou, --
28 KYLA BRIGHT: -- name.
29 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- would you state your name for the
30 record?
31 LOUIS LANI: Louis Lani.
32 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Thank you.
33 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Appreciate it.
34 KYLA BRIGHT: I appreciate that, Louis. Thank you.
35 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Other comments.
36 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: I agree with you.
37 JOHN WILLIAMS: John Williams. I'll second that.
38 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Motion carries.
39 SHAR PETERSON: Shar Peterson with LEDA. Can I third that?
40 KYLA BRIGHT: Thanks, Shar.

1 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thank you, Kyla.
2 KYLA BRIGHT: Thanks.
3 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Public --
4 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: And get --
5 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- works.
6 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: -- better.
7 We've got our spit wads ready.
8 BERT RAMOS: I have a two-minute limit.
9 Bert Ramos, public works director.
10 So I had to take notes because I'm not -- all these people
11 that are smart enough to keep track of all of it in their mind
12 is -- I'm impressed.
13 COMMISSIONER CLARK: You should have listened to me in
14 class, Bert.
15 BERT RAMOS: I'm telling you.
16 So as a group, I have a -- I have some great guys that have
17 done some great work. Obviously the -- anything and everything
18 that we do stems off the county commission giving us a budget to
19 do it. And then we just have to keep our budgets.
20 But I guess a few of our accomplishments, as a water
21 department, we have doubled the amount of usable municipal water
22 when a few years ago we barely had enough for the community.
23 But by fixing all of our leaks, some multiple projects, taking
24 them off our system, we more than doubled what we can use for
25 our -- for our community for growth. So we can double in size
26 and still be okay with water right now.
27 We've also started implementing some money from developers
28 when we do these public work projects. So in the last year, we
29 have roughly just over -- actually somewhere in the ballpark --
30 and these are ballpark numbers because I didn't have time to put
31 a slide show together or come up with solid numbers -- \$700,000
32 in funds from developers to the county for projects.
33 And then we have also upgraded our landfill and come off of
34 NDEP's list for potential fines. And it looks outstanding.
35 And this all because we have great employees that they all
36 take the initiative and -- and are busting their tail for Lander
37 County.
38 So when you guys see them just driving around, a lot of
39 these water guys, their job is just to drive from place to
40 place. It looks like they aren't doing much, but when they get

1 there, they're doing something. So they look like they're just
2 driving, but they're doing something.

3 And then as far as the Road and Bridge, it's hard to see
4 what all they accomplish because a lot of our roads are outlying
5 roads. We have a few thousand miles of dirt roads that we
6 maintain and then paved roads, which obviously a lot of that is
7 done by contract work minus some of our pothole patching, just
8 because of equipment and what else we have.

9 The other thing that -- that I think's important to mention
10 is the Road and Bridge is pretty much -- and Water and Sewer
11 here is pretty much our public works department since we don't
12 have one.

13 And then guys all jump in, and they move stuff for people
14 and you -- you name it. You know, all these departments within
15 the county, these guys are always going above and beyond what
16 their job is to make it work for the community.

17 As, you know, digging graves to putting fence up at parks
18 to, you name it, they -- they jump right in and help in areas
19 that aren't necessarily their jobs and do -- and do a great --
20 great job of it.

21 And that's pretty much it. So if you guys got any
22 questions? Or any of you?

23 MYRA WALL: Myra Wall with Lander County EMS.

24 Last year we had an incident out at the airport with the
25 snow. Does that fall under your guys' domain as well?

26 BERT RAMOS: It does. We were out -- that was that 2:00 in
27 the morning when we were out there --

28 MYRA WALL: Yes.

29 BERT RAMOS: -- plowing the jet --

30 MYRA WALL: That you guys were --

31 BERT RAMOS: -- out?

32 MYRA WALL: -- doing.

33 BERT RAMOS: Yeah.

34 MYRA WALL: Okay. I know that there was some sort of
35 back -- so I didn't know if you were the initial one or if you
36 were backup for us.

37 BERT RAMOS: No, that -- that was us. So they -- they made
38 that phone call. And, like I say, we -- until we get called
39 out, at -- especially to the airport --

40 MYRA WALL: Right.

1 BERT RAMOS: -- we try to get out there and plow it,
2 obviously. But I try to get that during working hours instead
3 of 2:00 in the morning. And -- and that was a --
4 MYRA WALL: Yes.
5 BERT RAMOS: -- heck of storm even -- as we plowed it off,
6 the jet still had trouble getting out.
7 MYRA WALL: Yeah.
8 BERT RAMOS: But, you know --
9 MYRA WALL: Okay.
10 BERT RAMOS: -- as they call, we go out there.
11 MYRA WALL: Normally we wouldn't have planes landing, like
12 you said, at that time.
13 BERT RAMOS: Yeah. No sweat.
14 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Bert? Bert? Are you in charge of the
15 model airplane airport out there by -- on the dump road?
16 BERT RAMOS: No.
17 CHAIRMAN MILLS: I don't think so.
18 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay.
19 BERT RAMOS: No, no. That's their own little committee
20 there they have for that, --
21 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay.
22 BERT RAMOS: -- I believe.
23 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Because I -- you know, it's -- it's
24 out there. We -- we should be using it, maybe have some
25 activities, especially since drones are a big deal now.
26 BERT RAMOS: Okay.
27 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: All right. Thanks, Bert.
28 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Okay. Thank you, --
29 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Thank you, --
30 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- Bert.
31 COMMISSIONER WAITS: -- Bert.
32 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Recreation.
33 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: You've still got three minutes.
34 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Oh, your two minutes are up.
35 ROBIN SMITH: Huh?
36 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Nothing.
37 ROBIN SMITH: Good evening. Robin Smith, Lander County
38 recreation supervisor.
39 My position is to oversee the planning of events at the rodeo
40 grounds and civic center. I work with the livestock events

1 board -- advisory board in planning events for the rodeo grounds.

2 We have got a club coming up. They have events scheduled
3 at the rodeo grounds starting in March through September. And
4 I've got also the archery club is interested in doing some
5 events out there and whatnot. So it's nice to see the rodeo
6 grounds being used.

7 The civic center is coming along good. We are hosting a
8 lot of weddings and quinceaneras, birthday parties. We're going
9 to do some upgrading of the floors and ceiling tiles. And I
10 think -- are they soundproof?

11 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Soundproof walls?

12 ROBIN SMITH: Yes.

13 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Uh-huh.

14 ROBIN SMITH: And some -- some work to the sound system in
15 the civic center.

16 And as far as the rec center goes, of course, you all it's
17 still a baby. We're only seven months open. It is coming along
18 really good.

19 I believe we are in the works of putting together some
20 co-ed basketball, volleyball, and pickleball teams. We've got a
21 handful of people signed up for those right now.

22 We've got to remember parents are following kids in sports
23 right now. So most of that's going to happen in the summer when
24 parents are freed up a little bit and can have some recreational
25 time for themselves.

26 I'm really excited. On the 24th of this month, we have
27 tryouts to start a swim team. We have 30 participants going to
28 try out. And I think that is amazing for this community.

29 We are going to join up with Lander Coun- -- or Humboldt
30 County. It's going to be called High Desert Aquatics. They've 25
31 on their team. So I'm hoping all 30 will, you know, pass the buck
32 on the swim team. And we can have a really good-sized team.

33 We have some exciting upgrades coming to rec center that we
34 are working on in budget, we're getting some quotes and moving
35 forward with.

36 And Austin Park, we are looking at doing some exciting
37 projects there. I've spoke with Bert and Anna and Keith a
38 little bit. And we're just moving along well and really looking
39 forward to upgrading some -- some things in Austin.

40 Getting Movie in the Park rolling. We've purchased a trailer

1 that we can go to Kingston and Austin and also do movie in the
2 parks there, share with those communities a little bit.
3 So in a nutshell, that's pretty much us. We're -- we're
4 moving along pretty good. So --
5 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Awesome.
6 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Thank you.
7 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thank you, Robin.
8 ROBIN SMITH: Thank you.
9 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Questions or comments?
10 No input?
11 Okay.
12 Lander County Board of Equalization.
13 JEANNE FALZONE: I'm going to go send it to him. It's all
14 this stuff.
15 DISTRICT ATTORNEY HERRERA: Right. (Indiscernible). See
16 you tomorrow.
17 JEANNE FALZONE: Uh-huh.
18 MARLA SAM: For the record, Marla J. Sam.
19 Since I just got appointed the chair yesterday, I guess I
20 get to -- to do this.
21 So a lot of people ask: What is the Board of Equalization?
22 This is where we hear the appeals of taxpayers who disagree
23 with their taxable assessed value of their property.
24 Our board consists of a chairman and a vice chair. And this
25 year our commissioner, I believe, is still Commissioner Bakker.
26 And also in attendance is our DA and, of course, our clerk of
27 the court.
28 It is open to the public. So you can come and -- and hear.
29 We meet once a year. And we met, actually, yesterday. And
30 we didn't have any appeals this year. But we meet once a year.
31 And we -- to hear the evidence of why the peti- --
32 petitioners disagree with their assessed taxable values of their
33 property.
34 A lot of people ask me, well, where did these figures come
35 from?
36 Every year, if you have property, you get a little thing
37 from the Assessor's Office that says: This is a notice of
38 assessed valuation. This is a tax bill. It is a notice of
39 value only. And it tells you to -- for this one we have 2017-18
40 assessed values, 2018-19 assessed values. And you can see that

1 your bill probably went up a little bit this year. Sometimes
2 it'll go down.

3 If you turn it over and read on the back, it tells you how
4 -- it tells you the NRS that provides this information. And it
5 also explains to you how your property is assessed.

6 And so it also tells you: What if I disagree with the
7 taxable values?

8 If you disagree with the taxable value or feel the taxable
9 value is greater than the market value of your property, that
10 tells you to please come in and see the assessor. That is your
11 first point of interest is to go there.

12 If you discuss it with the assessor and the assessor decides
13 and -- or you decide that the assessor is still not in what you
14 want to hear, then you go to the county board of equalization.

15 The deadline is January 15th unless the 15th is a holiday or
16 it comes on a weekend, then it's the next business day.

17 Once that is done and you've made your petition, there's a
18 lot of paperwork that's filled out. We get a packet. And once we
19 get the packet, we have to go through the packet. And we have to
20 decide: Did they appeal in time? Is the information there? Does
21 it have a docket number? Is it an appeal? Or is it a case?

22 So the first person up that gets to present is the person
23 that's petitioning against their taxes. They get the first chance
24 at it. They can bring their lawyers. They can bring whatever
25 they want to present. They get to present.

26 And then the assessor has the ability to next -- to present
27 her evidence and her testimony.

28 And they can go back and forth. Each one of them can
29 rebuttal the other one. And finally when they are -- they're done
30 and they feel like they have said everything that they want to, we
31 ask questions of them.

32 And if the -- if the petitioner still does not agree with the
33 board, they have right to appeal to the State Board of
34 Equalization, which will hear their case and have the final say on
35 it.

36 We've had some -- some -- we've had a couple that have
37 appealed to the state. But most generally, I can say that the
38 assessor is very easy to work with. And she's always willing to
39 go back to the table and see if they can figure out before it goes
40 to the state.

1 She works very hard to see that our -- our people in our
2 county are being treated fairly.

3 And our goals are to be as fair and transparent and to
4 solve all the appeals to the best of our abilities. And we
5 encourage people if they do have a problem to -- to bring it,
6 and let's take care of it.

7 Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Awesome. Thank you, --

9 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Thank you, --

10 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: -- Marla.

11 CHAIRMAN MILLS: -- Marla.

12 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Thank you, Marla.

13 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Any questions or comments?

14 Let's move to Lander County Convention & Tourism Authority.

15 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Negative. Moving on.

16 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Are -- you want -- you want to say
17 anything on that one, Patsy? Aren't you -- you're on that
18 board; aren't you?

19 COMMISSIONER WAITS: I wish I'd known they weren't going to
20 be here so I could give you some figures. Because -- because I
21 don't have those off -- off my -- my head at all.

22 But, basically, it's a -- it's kind of a stand-alone
23 authority. And they collect the 9.5 percent of the -- the amount
24 for motels and RVs. And that goes into a fund for Battle
25 Mountain. And it goes into a fund for Austin.

26 Part is paid to the state, of course. And then part is -- is
27 given to -- to both north and south.

28 And they work kind of independently.

29 They're available for grants for anything that's -- that's
30 tourism related. Of course, they put on the big chukar tournament
31 every year for their -- for their fundraiser too. They've always
32 done well because we do have a lot of tourists. And, therefore,
33 we still have a lot of money up there.

34 The whole idea is that they -- they do give the grants back
35 to the different associations that apply for those.

36 Mostly advertising and encouraging people for events that
37 will come and -- and help Lander County and -- and support our
38 businesses and support our motels and -- and parks.

39 I'm sorry they don't have any representation because we do
40 have a few people on that board that I thought would be here. But

1 I -- I sit on as a representative from our commission, of course.
2 But unless you have any specific questions?
3 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: No.
4 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Anyone?
5 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thank you.
6 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Thank you, Patsy.
7 Lander County Debt Management Commission.
8 LOUIS LANI: I can make this real short.
9 Louis Lani, Lander County Debt Management.
10 I've got a great board that I work with.
11 Lander County is debt free.
12 The ladies in the office up here send our packets out ahead
13 of time so our board has a chance to look them all over. And our
14 typical meeting takes anywhere from five to seven minutes,
15 somewhere in there.
16 That's all I can tell you.
17 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: How many times --
18 COMMISSIONER WAITS: That's a w- -- that's a wonderful
19 report. We're so happy to hear that.
20 LOUIS LANI: No questions. Okay.
21 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Cool. Thank you, Louis.
22 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Thanks, Lou.
23 Lander County Planning Commission.
24 JOHN WILLIAMS: This time?
25 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Yes. Yes, it's you. Come on up --
26 JOHN WILLIAMS: (Indiscernible.)
27 COMMISSIONER WAITS: -- John.
28 JOHN WILLIAMS: John Williams, Lander County Planning
29 Commission.
30 Should be pretty short also.
31 We -- we're charged with forward looking 20 years -- we -- is
32 typical for the county as far as infrastructure, what we can do
33 with that part of it, land use, water use, roads.
34 We -- we get to work with -- fortunately -- with some real
35 good people: the manager, the DA, you folks.
36 And like was mentioned before, Kyla just really saves our
37 bacon. She's really excellent.
38 We go by two sets of rules pretty hard and fast. We try to
39 stick strictly to them, not to deviate, let any politics or
40 personal opinions get into it. And that would be the NRS statutes

1 from the state or -- and/or our Lander County zoning ordinances.
2 And sometimes we're not too popular. I guess you can't make
3 them all happy.
4 I don't really know what else to say. We -- we -- we try and
5 work with people as much as the rules will allow us and try and
6 help the county. Hopefully, give recommendations to you folks to
7 steer the county in the right direction where it'll be profitable
8 and everyone will be happy.
9 Any questions?
10 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Thank you.
11 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Awesome.
12 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Well, we -- we certainly appreciate
13 it. I mean, if we didn't have advisory boards like this, our
14 meetings would be three days long. They truly --
15 So -- so we appreciate all of you --
16 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Yeah.
17 COMMISSIONER WAITS: -- stepping up to help in this
18 capacity.
19 JOHN WILLIAMS: Thank you.
20 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Thank you.
21 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thank you, John.
22 JOHN WILLIAMS: We appreciate you guys.
23 CHAIRMAN MILLS: So one thing that came up in a -- in a
24 commission meeting just not too long ago, we were discussing
25 about our boards, and especially those that -- that are elected
26 to boards, attending ethics training for the protection of the
27 person on the board and also for the protection of the county.
28 And that's one thing that we'll be -- we'll be setting up
29 shortly, some ethics training.
30 And we may also -- I think we talked about possibly
31 changing our ordinance and making that a requirement for some of
32 those positions, that you attend that. And that's -- that --
33 JOHN WILLIAMS: Well, I personally am looking forward to
34 it. And I think most of the board members are also. It's a
35 good thing.
36 And I don't know if it's legal. Yeah. I'd like to see it be
37 a req- -- a requirement.
38 Although we have a tough time getting volunteers anyway.
39 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Yeah. Right.
40 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Yeah.

1 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Right.
2 CHAIRMAN MILLS: I know.
3 JOHN WILLIAMS: We don't want to scare --
4 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Don't want to --
5 JOHN WILLIAMS: -- them --
6 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: -- run them --
7 JOHN WILLIAMS: -- off.
8 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: -- off either.
9 JOHN WILLIAMS: No. Thank you.
10 CHAIRMAN MILLS: But it is --
11 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thanks, John.
12 CHAIRMAN MILLS: That ethics training, it -- it is good
13 training.
14 Thank you.
15 Lander County Regional Transportation Commission.
16 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: Okay. I'll address that.
17 The regional transportation commission board or RTC, as we
18 call it, is a three-member board.
19 And what we're designed to do is the RTC receives your --
20 your fuel tax from the state. So every gallon of gasoline that
21 you buy, a percentage of that goes to the RTC to the fund in the
22 county that it was sold in.
23 And that goes to the RTC Fund. And it can only be utilized
24 for public safety.
25 So, as a board, we can discuss projects. We -- we did work
26 on developing a project that didn't come to fruition.
27 But it is -- it is an option that if we want to look at some
28 kind of public safety project that we have the funding for and go
29 to the commissioners and say, "Hey, can we do this?"
30 Also, other -- other entities that may request some funding
31 for public safety, as long it falls within those guidelines,
32 then -- then we can recommend whether or not we want to grant them
33 any money.
34 Typically, it's -- we only meet quarterly unless, as I
35 mentioned before, we were working on a project before. And that
36 was almost on a month-by-month basis.
37 Right now we have nothing in the works.
38 I know that there's been someone who has approached us for --
39 for a possible project. But we haven't heard anything further on
40 that.

1 So that's pretty much the ins and out on the RTC.

2 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Awesome.

3 COMMISSIONER WAITS: I just have one comment to that. And
4 -- and I also sit on the board. Judie's our chair. And
5 that's -- it's vehicle tax, vehicle fuel tax. We do not receive
6 any from diesel. And that's when we had the ballot question
7 that we were trying to get some diesel tax, remember, last year.

8 And then the legislature took a look at it to see if the
9 counties could do it individually. And that didn't pass either.

10 So it -- it is an amount of money that still helps. But --
11 but we're losing because of it.

12 And unfortunately the -- the trucking companies were behind
13 us on that so --

14 But -- but the citizens were not.

15 So just to let you know, we don't receive that. That's still
16 an amount of money that's passing through to someone else.

17 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: Thank you, Patsy. That's --

18 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Questions or comments?

19 Okay.

20 Do Lander County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife.

21 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: They're working.

22 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Okay.

23 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Moving on?

24 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Austin Airport Advisory Board.

25 Frank Whitman, for the record. Vice chair of the Austin
26 Airport Advisory Board.

27 First I wanted to thank our commissioners for your really
28 continued support the last few years. It's made a big
29 difference. And hopefully it'll make a big difference going
30 forward.

31 A few years ago some of us on that board came together and
32 realized that we had an asset for -- the county has an asset.
33 Austin and southern Lander County had an asset that perhaps we
34 could leverage for economic development, and short of that,
35 certainly, for public safety issues.

36 So we have slowly hammered and worked at putting together a
37 -- bringing our airport into the 21st century.

38 And some of our achievements so far have been -- thank you,
39 Patsy, for our pilot's lounge. We have two modular classrooms.
40 And that pilots' lounge has immediately worked as an incident

1 command center for BLM firefighting in the southern part of the
2 county.

3 Why that's important is if -- in our county for sage grouse,
4 the two -- the two biggest issues for their protection are
5 catastrophic range fires and -- and habitat encroachment by an
6 invasive species.

7 So, you know, having a -- a -- being able to respond to a
8 fire very fast and on-site, you know, just -- it really can end
9 up helping, say, for our ranchers who won't have a -- a
10 catastrophic burn where they can't -- maybe they can nip that
11 and save 4,000 acres as we know can happen here. In an
12 afternoon a fire can blow up 40,000 acres. And that's just
13 disastrous for both our ranchers and -- and for our natu- --
14 our -- our environment.

15 We have a -- a courtesy car now. So you can fly in and drive
16 uptown and have a lunch or take a look at some of the historical
17 sites.

18 We've got the AV gas in, which -- which we're -- we're
19 selling av- -- aviation gas.

20 We expanded the apron. And we have an AWOS. That's an
21 automatic weather operating system so you upgrade -- so that you
22 can call in. Anyone here can call in to a number and actually
23 hear what the weather is at the airport. It's not just for pilots
24 but travelers as well.

25 We just put in a new water line. The idea is to make kind of
26 a one-stop -- or eventually a one-stop kind of a loop so that the
27 seats -- single-engine air tankers can kind of land, fuel if they
28 want to fuel, get their fire retardant, get their water, and
29 make -- make a turn around, and out as fast as possible.

30 It's in our proposed budget. And I'm sure we'll get it this
31 year, is to get the av -- the Jet A in there.

32 And so that -- that's in terms of going forward, that is one
33 of our -- our -- our next big projects is get Jet A. We're
34 looking at trying to get a GPS landing in there so that -- we were
35 not sure how we were going to do that or if they just -- if that
36 is possible.

37 And Fallon Naval Air Station is expanding their training
38 area. And we have been concerned about some conflicts there.

39 I think that we've resolved the issue on air space. And
40 currently there's a -- the air space across that way follows

1 Highway 50, which is a very sinuosity way of getting across the
2 state.

3 I think between Fallon and Austin, it's 38 course -- no, 28
4 course changes. And it would be more efficient for the Navy,
5 actually, and for us to kind of make a little wider, a little
6 larger corridor that just, you know, is more direct, maybe it --
7 maybe five or six course changes. So --

8 And I think that the -- the final yay -- the final draft
9 of that environmental impact statement hasn't been finished yet.
10 But I -- I think the Navy's very keen to work with us on -- on
11 that one.

12 But the Navy d- -- doesn't want us to have GPS. They
13 feel that that would attract too much business. And -- and they
14 feel it could be in -- in conflict with their war -- with their
15 war games. We -- we -- we kind of dispute that.

16 And -- and secondly we feel that the GPS -- and we do get
17 feedback from our medevac crews that land there that GPS is
18 essential, that they -- it'd make -- it would really make a
19 difference. So we -- we will continue to con- -- to lobby for
20 GPS. We're just not sure if that's a possibility.

21 Again, I've mentioned the medevac. It's been a big plus for
22 the medevac, firefighting.

23 Looking ahead, well, we -- we do want to leverage it for
24 any kind of business.

25 We've kind of looked into and made a few -- I've made a few
26 calls around about the possibility of heli skis. If we have Jet
27 A, we can get a heli in there. And in a good year, snow year, you
28 can just -- you can see the mountains, the Toiyabes right -- right
29 -- right there.

30 And we feel that might be helpful for our winter tourism.

31 I think that's pretty much all I have to say for the
32 airport. Any questions?

33 Any questions?

34 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Awesome. Thank you, Frank.

35 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: Thank --

36 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Thank you --

37 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: -- you, Frank.

38 COMMISSIONER WAITS: -- Frank.

39 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Anybody ready for flying lessons?

40 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Can we use your --

1 CHAIRMAN MILLS: There we go.
2 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: -- plane?
3 CHAIRMAN MILLS: All right.
4 We're going flying.
5 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Can we use your plane?
6 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Sure.
7 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: All right. Good to go.
8 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Thank you.
9 Battle Mountain Livestock Event Center Advisory Board.
10 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: He's working.
11 CHAIRMAN MILLS: All right. Well, I'm on board. So...
12 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Oh, yeah. You're on board. There
13 you go.
14 CHAIRMAN MILLS: I'd say the -- the -- the biggest thing
15 with the Livestock Event Center is that there's been a lot of
16 improvements made on the facility, largely thanks to Bert. And
17 the board has made some requests and requested the commission to
18 get some money to make those things possible.
19 There's also, as was mentioned earlier, I think, that they're
20 trying to get some private groups to use that facility more often.
21 That's really what we want. We have a nice facility. We'd like
22 to see it used more. We found if -- that -- that having the
23 advisory board do events is restrictive. It's kind of
24 problematic. So we're trying to find other avenues to -- to make
25 that more -- more used. And that's probably about all there.
26 Local Emergency Planning Commission?
27 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Okay.
28 CHAIRMAN MILLS: You got anything, Judie, on that one?
29 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: No.
30 CHAIRMAN MILLS: No?
31 Okay.
32 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: There's a lot. There's actually --
33 I'm not sure where to start.
34 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Are they still looking for a place to
35 put the trailers?
36 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: Possibly.
37 It's still a -- a discussion -- ongoing discussion about
38 storage of the trailers.
39 Although, we did hand out a couple keys to the gate. So
40 there should be a trailer showing up -- or if it has shown up

1 today or sometime -- in the back.
2 COMMISSIONER WAITS: You might want to tell us who sits on
3 the board.
4 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: There is quite a list of who sits on
5 the board.
6 COMMISSIONER WAITS: I mean, just to give them an idea.
7 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: Actually, we have -- we have the
8 Sheriff's Department. Our sheriff is our -- what's the term? --
9 emer- --
10 SHERIFF RON UNGER: County emergency manager.
11 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: Emergency manager. We have
12 representatives from EMS, --
13 SHERIFF RON UNGER: Fire.
14 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: -- search and rescue, the fire
15 department, --
16 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: All the mines.
17 MARLA SAM: All the mines.
18 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: And the mines. Thank you.
19 And I'm just trying to -- we've got --
20 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Half the -- because half the LEPC board's
21 here.
22 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: No, not even, but close.
23 There is a -- a ham radio club. And we have a representative
24 from that.
25 So -- I forget anybody?
26 So it's -- it's actually a very large board.
27 SHERIFF RON UNGER: BLM.
28 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: The BLM. Yes. Thank you.
29 And it's -- it's -- we discuss, you know, what do you do in
30 an emergency? What if there was a -- a vehicle accident on the
31 freeway releasing hazardous chemicals?
32 If you have a -- a train derailment and mass casualties
33 and -- and whatnot.
34 So anything really emergency related. And we had a -- a
35 class -- found a class, a little workshop here last fall on the
36 wildfires, on evacuation of animals.
37 Because I know that was kind of a big thing that was going
38 is, you know, is what do you do in that case, evacuating people?
39 So LEPC is -- is trying to trying to figure out what --
40 what an emergency could be and how to prepare for it and what to

1 do in a -- in a case of an emergency.
2 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Thank you, Judie.
3 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thank you, --
4 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: Anything --
5 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: -- Judie.
6 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: -- else? Did I miss --
7 SHERIFF RON UNGER: I can add to that just a little bit --
8 Ron Unger, for the record -- to help Judie out.
9 What we've got -- LEPC or -- years ago, they came up and they
10 helped us. We -- we've got our own Lander County Emergency
11 Operation Plan that's in effect. We've got an evacuation plan
12 that's all written down, in effect. It was mainly for hazmat.
13 But we kind of expanded that just a little bit to take care of,
14 like Judie was saying, evacuation plans and stuff like that.
15 And we've got several trailers with equipment in it for that.
16 So they've been an asset.
17 But what Judie's talking about is to be certified and have a
18 lot -- we have to have a -- through the state of Nevada through
19 the SERC, we have to do a certain amount of tabletop exercises or
20 actual deals, which we did years ago with the fire department.
21 But we have opted to go with the tabletop exercises,
22 scenarios that would involve hazardous materials. And so that's
23 what she was saying about the training.
24 We try to do that once a year. And that involves sheriff,
25 fire, search and rescue, EMS, evacuations, schools, stuff like
26 that. We just go over it on a table. So it's an emergency
27 planning committee. And we do a pretty decent job.
28 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Thank you. And that was Ron Unger,
29 for the record.
30 SHERIFF RON UNGER: Didn't I say that?
31 CHAIRMAN MILLS: He did. He said.
32 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: Oh.
33 SHERIFF RON UNGER: Oh. I think I did. I must have
34 been mumbling.
35 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: Thank -- thank you, Ron.
36 SHERIFF RON UNGER: Thank you, Judie.
37 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Question or comments?
38 So I'd just like to add that there's -- there's a lot of
39 really capable people on LEPC. And they're coming from the fire
40 department, the sheriff's office, a lot of different resources.

1 And probably most of the time we don't think about all that stuff.
2 But we do have communi- -- people in our community that are
3 thinking about that stuff, planning and preparing. If something
4 does happen, I think we're -- we're pretty well prepared for
5 whatever might come about. So sleep comfortably. You're fine.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Lander County Economic Development
8 Authority.

9 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Shar.

10 SHAR PETERSON: Thank you for having me. Thank you for
11 having me. Thank you for having us here. And thank you for
12 these updates. I think they're beneficial and appreciate that.

13 I'm Shar Peterson with LEDA, for the record. Lander
14 Economic Development Authority.

15 I just have to say I think I've been on here long enough I
16 had to go by notes. Things all run together after a while when
17 you've been on the board for long enough.

18 But LEDA's actually done a lot of work within the
19 community. And the key strategy for LEDA is to be a catalyst to
20 strengthen and stabilize and diversify the economy through
21 retention, attraction, and expansion of business and industry.

22 These are key -- key focus.

23 So we meet monthly, the first Wednesday of every month.
24 It's open meeting. And we meet right here in the -- the
25 community room.

26 Our board members are Ron Sherve is the chair; myself as
27 vice chair; George Fennemore with Barrick; Paula Tomera with
28 Convention & Tourism; Sarah Edgar, who is also with Barrick;
29 Cindy Walsh from Austin -- or Kingston -- excuse me -- with
30 the --

31 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Austin.

32 SHAR PETERSON: Austin. Austin. Okay.

33 And then our newest member is Lisa Taylor with Cooperative
34 Extension.

35 So we work regionally with the NNRDA, which is Northern
36 Nevada Regional Development Authority.

37 Just within the last year and a half, we joined them and to
38 broaden our reach and use our collective resources to build a
39 better economy for the community.

40 I think it was a choice that you, along with LEDA, the

1 commissioners, made to join. And I think it's been a wise choice
2 because they have the resources that can go out there. And
3 they'll be the actual ones to bring in potential businesses to
4 community. So we work very closely with them expanding --
5 specifically looking at the mining chain, working closely there
6 with the mining supply chain that supports the workforce.

7 And, of course, here in our area and regionally and
8 locally, that's a great opportunity there. The partnership with
9 NNRDA -- NNRDA has helped us locate L&H Industries was one of
10 the industries that's come to the community.

11 We're currently working with four other business actively
12 looking at the Battle Mountain area for location.

13 The Governor's Office of Economic Development reports that
14 there's 3.3 billion in total opportunities for companies to come
15 within serving the mining industry here in northern Nevada.
16 That's a lot of -- a lot of opportunity.

17 So we need to make sure we're on board and not missing those
18 opportunities and preparing the community to be able to help
19 service those -- those opportunities when they come up.

20 So those are some of the things that are -- are on our plate,
21 we're looking at, and working closely with.

22 LEDA also supports and initiates programs that help to
23 build the community assets and --

24 As far as some of the projects that we've done in the past
25 have been many and varied. But we've looked at -- starting back
26 in about 2005 through '14, we worked on the Find the Future
27 Industrial Needs Discovery project, which is a huge product with
28 funding from -- the Department of the Interior was a big funder
29 of that -- that project to complete that.

30 And we completed it along with the REDS and the Business
31 Matching Model Study, which were all prepping us for business and
32 looking at the opportunities that we do have.

33 And with that, in 2014 we received the Department of
34 Interior sustainability award for that project.

35 So I was -- I had the opp- -- great opportunity to go along
36 with some others to Washington, D.C. and receive that -- that
37 award.

38 So I think that sometimes we forget, myself, being in the
39 heart of working at it, you forget how much opportunity we've
40 actually had and what we have done in the past.

1 Some of the other projects we have is marketing and
2 branding study for the communities of Austin and Kingston. A
3 business branding and outreach to potential mining supply chain
4 companies through digital and mobile -- mobile marketing.

5 We have feeds on our website. We have a great website that's
6 up now. And if you haven't looked at it, I encourage you to go
7 take a look at it. And we work diligently to keep that updated
8 and -- and become one of those quick hits. If -- if there's a
9 site selector or someone looking, it's going to be something that
10 attracts people to Lander County and tells them at a quick glance
11 what we offer.

12 The feeds to that website traffic average about 800 unique
13 visitors as month. So it is being looked at.

14 All of our LEDA members have from various times attended
15 economic development workshops, whether it be through UNR or
16 also through various statewide economic development workshops.

17 We've represented LEDA and Lander County at those workshops.
18 LEDA sponsored and paid for members to attend and highlight Lander
19 County at regional home and trade shows. Here in the past -- did
20 that -- I think we did that four or five years in a row, up until
21 just recently. And it -- and it -- the opportunities still arise.
22 We attend those shows.

23 Early analysis and support on ad hoc committees to construct
24 the new Battle Mountain community pool was a big part that we
25 played earlier on in that, forming that ad hoc committee.

26 And happy to say we're excited to see the fruition of that
27 -- that early work. And so feel like we had a hand in that.

28 Developing and marketing materials for the website are
29 something we work on constantly. We also worked on developing a
30 marketing plan with the Lander County Historical Society for its
31 Depot and Mining Museum expansion that's hopefully coming in the
32 future there.

33 So we also assisted Lander Convention & Tourism with their
34 feasibility study to assess the potential of creating a permanent
35 track for the world human-powered speed challenge that comes
36 annually here. We were -- we stood behind that.

37 We developed funding and hosting series of downtown
38 improvement tours and bringing in the professionals that have
39 recommendations for business owners to -- how to improve their
40 businesses, what they can do to -- to market and bring in more

1 business and new business expansion. We've done lots of those
2 here the past couple of years.

3 Also, we build and maintain the CEDS document, which is the
4 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and had the
5 opportunity to work with Gene years ago on getting that into
6 place, which was a headache and a half. But once it was in place,
7 it's been something that LEDA has kept up on and kept current. It
8 needs reviewed every year.

9 And what that document actually does is it gives us the
10 opportunity to access federal resources and -- and grants that
11 we wouldn't have otherwise if we didn't have that in place.

12 We played a role in assisting the production of the Lander
13 County video funded through the Northern Nevada Regional
14 Development Authority. So if you have not seen that video that
15 was produced -- I think Kyla has some on a -- on the digital
16 memory sticks that you can pick up. Take a look at that video,
17 which was a really great opportunity to showcase off Lander
18 County with that -- that project.

19 In partnership with NNRDA, again, LEDA members have traveled
20 to trade shows, the mining expo, which is held -- hosted in Elko.
21 The World Mining Expo in Las Vegas. We represented there and
22 marketed Lander County to prospective businesses as well as have
23 sit-downs and meet with -- with companies -- a meet and greet with
24 companies that are -- have a potential to look at coming into the
25 region.

26 We also hosted the Canadian Trade Mission in partnership
27 with NNRDA just last -- last fall. Ho- -- hosted a couple of
28 trade commissions through Canada, that -- and toured them
29 through our mine sites and various other opportunities here in
30 Lander County.

31 And -- and I believe there's been quite a bit of interest
32 that came out of that.

33 So that was -- hopefully something we continue to nurture
34 and -- and bring forward.

35 LEDA also provides letters of support or opposition on
36 various projects, whether it be a mining project, legislation, or
37 agency policies that are coming up that could have a huge impact
38 on our -- on our county or region or community.

39 So we make sure we try to stay on top of that and informed
40 and -- and get those -- those letters out there, whether it be

1 a -- a -- a positive letter of support or if we show resistance
2 to it.

3 We're currently working on planning of the bike trail plan to
4 enhance our --

5 Along with our walking trail that we have here in the
6 community, it'll be a bike trail. We have that plan written and
7 developed. And I think with some support that the commissioner
8 have provided, we have that into place and ready to request a
9 grant for that. The grant is written and just waiting for that
10 grant to come open and -- and get that into place. So that will
11 also bring some assets to the community.

12 Forward looking, we've changed probably our -- LEDA's focus
13 has changed a little bit with the joining of NNRDA.

14 And so we see ourselves as continuing to be that voice and
15 support for the -- between the commission and NNRDA as well on
16 the economic development opportunities. Also looking at
17 developing a regional strategic plan. And we're going to be an
18 assistance on that one.

19 And then we'll be focusing probably more closely as an
20 advisory committee to the commissioners supporting projects,
21 helping identify resources such as land, things like that.

22 And then be that resource to the -- to the commission on
23 these economic development opportunities, such as was mentioned
24 before here. We can become that vehicle that helps make these
25 things happen with the airport and various projects that come up.

26 Airport water expansion is a great one, as well as the
27 opportunities that I think have been mentioned with business parks
28 and -- and possible -- any development at the airport.

29 We've missed opportunities by not having ourselves ready as
30 a community when these businesses look, because they're looking
31 quickly and they're moving on.

32 And so if we can help have those amenities prepared and
33 ready and in place and being ready to grab them when NNRDA
34 brings potential business in.

35 And, again, thanks to Kyla. She is our -- our feet on the
36 ground, work hard every day. And it keeps us going.

37 And -- and Doug is our representative on the -- to the
38 commission as well. So we appreciate that.

39 So that's pretty much --

40 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thank you, --

1 SHAR PETERSON: -- what I --
2 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: -- Shar.
3 SHAR PETERSON: -- have. So --
4 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Well, --
5 SHAR PETERSON: -- any questions?
6 COMMISSIONER WAITS: -- thank you to you, Shar -- and --
7 and to the board most certainly.
8 And just a quick comment. Your -- your website is really
9 great.
10 SHAR PETERSON: Thank you. Great.
11 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thank you, Shar.
12 SHAR PETERSON: All right.
13 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Thank --
14 SHAR PETERSON: Thank --
15 COMMISSIONER WAITS: -- you.
16 SHAR PETERSON: -- you.
17 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Any comments?
18 Thank you.
19 Lander County Public Lands Use Advisory Planning Commission.
20 FRANK WHITMAN: Frank Whitman, chair of the Lander County
21 Public Lands Use Advisory Commission. That's a mouthful.
22 We view ourselves as sort of a liaison between public lands
23 and our commissioners.
24 Lander County's about 80 percent administered by one federal
25 agency or another. And their decisions ought -- and those
26 decisions are often made out of state or in state or even far out
27 of state in Washington, D.C. can have a huge impact on -- on -- on
28 Lander County economically or even just social economic- -- you
29 know, where- -- wherever you want to go rock hounding, let alone,
30 you know, for your own ranch.
31 So I think our biggest thing that we try to do is keep our
32 county commissioners abreast of -- of information that gets
33 made. There are so many different streams of information that
34 it's hard for any -- I think for any entity to keep on track of
35 who's doing what at what time.
36 That's also perhaps germane to one of our federal
37 government's problem is the right and left hand often doesn't
38 know what it's doing. But their decisions can impact, you know,
39 many people and many, many square miles of land.
40 Some of things in particular, looking ahead, for example,

1 we've -- R.S. 2477 roads, you know. The issue there is you -- you
2 shut down the roads, you shut down public access, you shut down,
3 most immediately, you know, ranching and mining interests. But
4 you also shut down -- I don't know about you -- but one thing I --
5 I think we all love about this land is that, you know, it's Sunday
6 afternoon, take your family, and just go.

7 I mean, you know, to have somebody say you can't do that, it
8 just feels unjust.

9 So we've done really good stuff with the forest service. And
10 we -- we are waiting and trying to engage the BLM and then
11 hopefully resolve the legal part of that. And -- and couple years
12 out, we might have a -- might -- might be finished with that one.

13 Water is -- is becoming, I think, the -- the issue in Nevada.
14 You know, Vegas is -- I know you're all -- I'm -- you're aware of
15 Vegas's interest in White Pine's water.

16 You -- you may have read yesterday that Reno has authorized
17 an addition of 5,000 housing -- houses in a development over by
18 the California border.

19 And the Truckee Meadows admits that we don't have the water
20 for that. They don't know where they're going to get the water.
21 They have some ideas. But sooner or later places where there are
22 water -- or more water will be under pressure. And part of that
23 will be our county. And -- and -- as -- particularly, you know,
24 you -- you who our ranchers or producers right now who are within
25 ten miles of the Humboldt River are looking at some sort of
26 remediation for Rye Patch.

27 So, you know, we live in a state -- the driest state in the
28 nation. And we have a limited amount of water. And how that's
29 going to be best used is -- is a really hard decision.

30 Somebody's going to have to make some very difficult
31 decisions on that. We want to be proactive. And we want to get
32 out ahead of those decisions. We don't -- we want to be at the
33 table. We want the county to be at the table when those
34 decisions are made instead of always reacting to somebody else
35 making that decision. So that -- that's one thing that -- that
36 PLUAC has been more and more involved in, is trying to
37 anticipate water issues for our county.

38 The PLUAC is working with the planning. And hopefully
39 LEDA -- we'll be with LEDA and the commissioners about coming up
40 with a -- a lands bill for -- and that is to -- we started out as

1 an idea of -- of trying to house clean, so to speak, a lot of
2 parcels that just don't make sense for the BLM to continue to own.

3 The -- deed the Kingston Airport, say, to -- to the county or
4 the EPA requests or dom- -- the EPA's law says you have to have 40
5 acres around every municipal well head. You know, that's BLM
6 land. We want the BLM to convey that to us.

7 I know that in the north here, you have big issues about
8 your golf course and try to get that squared away, make the --
9 the county the owner of all that property.

10 There's some checkerboard lands. And that's a -- that is a
11 nightmare to resolve. I doubt we'll -- I doubt in -- in our
12 efforts at this point we'll resolve all that. But some of those,
13 like checkerboard land, I think that the planning commission can
14 resolve it in terms of some future economic development, you know,
15 warehousing complexes and stuff like that.

16 So it's -- it's a -- that'll be ongoing. In fact next week
17 we'll be meeting and talking about the scope of that with -- with
18 the commissioners.

19 I'd like to say something about the sage grouse. You know,
20 that has been whipped back and forth again and again and again.
21 And I think I couldn't even tell you where we -- we are -- where
22 we're at exactly at this moment other than current -- currently in
23 the interior department they're looking at revising and returning
24 to the state -- at the state's lands plan, which some of us -- I
25 think, Louis -- I know I was and some other people. When Kenny
26 Guinn was governor, we actually came up with a plan that got
27 thrown away. And now we're revisiting stuff that -- that we came
28 up with way back then.

29 One thing that is interesting on that is that the
30 one-size-fit-all does not fit all. And that we're -- we're
31 learning that small site-specific remediation programs really
32 pay off the biggest. And that seems to be finally acknowledged
33 by the fed- -- federal government.

34 And, you know, and at the end of the day, we want -- we want
35 the bird to survive and to thrive. And we want access to the
36 land. And -- and we want our ranchers to do well too.

37 So horses. Boy, I -- I wouldn't know what to -- where a
38 solution's going to lie on -- on the feral horse situation for
39 this county.

40 But one thing to continue to remember is that every year

1 you wait, that horse population is increasing by 20 percent or
2 25 percent -- twenty, 25 percent. So that while we keep
3 thinking that, well, we'll figure this out in five years, in
4 five years the horses -- horse issue that we have now will be
5 twice as difficult to resolve.

6 One thing I think that's -- that is definitely changing is
7 that the -- in the past, the people who are pro horses have
8 defined us as a horse versus cattle issue. And that's really not
9 the truth.

10 It's -- it's unfortunate. But the dialogue should be about
11 it's a horse versus the health of the range. We can manage cows.
12 We can take them off the range and put them on the range. At the
13 end of the day, we take them to market and we eat them.

14 We cannot do that with the horse. Horse is -- is free to
15 go where it wants to. And we don't slaughter horses.

16 So, you know, when we try to compare the two, there's just
17 no way that you can.

18 The habitat degradation from horses has gotten so extensive,
19 even outfits like Rocky Mountain, Elk Foundation, a lot of other
20 conservation outfits have -- have -- have realized that we need to
21 find a rational program, something to -- to manage the horse
22 population.

23 So what else do I have?

24 We just finished up putting our final touches on a new
25 federally -- new federal land -- federal lands -- federally
26 administered lands plan for the county. It's kind of a 20-year
27 guideline that we do every ten years. Nothing really
28 revolutionary in that.

29 But it -- but it is something to -- to work off and to -- to
30 be able to show to the BLM or other government agencies that
31 administer land in Lander County that these are our intentions.
32 This is what the county would like to see.

33 Gosh. I think that's a -- that's about the most I have to
34 say. Are there any questions, please? Any questions from the
35 board?

36 Okay. Well, --

37 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Thank you --

38 FRANK WHITMAN: -- very good.

39 COMMISSIONER WAITS: -- to you, --

40 FRANK WHITMAN: Thank --

1 COMMISSIONER WAITS: -- Frank.

2 FRANK WHITMAN: -- you.

3 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thank you, Frank.

4 COMMISSIONER WAITS: And -- and all the different things
5 that you do for our community and serve on too.

6 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Thank you.

7 Lander County Conservation District.

8 SHANNON BERUMEN: Hello, everyone.

9 My name's Shannon Berumen. I am the secretary district clerk
10 for the Lander County Conservation District.

11 The conservation district is an entity of the state, locally
12 lead by five elected supervisors and one county-appointed
13 representative.

14 Our current supervisors are Eric Taylor, Garrett Bakker, Paul
15 Tomera, Suzanne Lemaire, Jerry Annis, and then our
16 county-appointed representative at -- was currently Sean Mariluch.
17 That county-appointed representative position will be up for
18 submission of a can- -- a letter of interest.

19 And then we also do our elections in even-numbered years just
20 like other elected officials. So we will have an -- an election
21 coming for this year.

22 The CD's job is to work for the conservation and proper
23 management of all natural resources, not just in our county, but
24 we work with other entities across the state. And we can also
25 uniquely cross other boundaries even -- even state boundaries by
26 following some guidelines.

27 We use and coordinate available technical, financial, and
28 educational resources to meet landowner and land user needs.

29 We work in cooperation with many entities, including Lander
30 County, the Cooperative Extension, and other public and private
31 entities to help accomplish things.

32 We're governed by NRS 548. And I know NRSs are very long and
33 lengthy, but sometimes it's good to read them.

34 We are required to have three meetings a year. We are
35 subject to open meeting law and all of the -- all of the
36 wonderful things that go along with that.

37 And we are required to submit budgets to the state
38 conservation commission, including, of course, profits, annual
39 work plans, and financial reports.

40 Some of the things that we offer for Lander County are cost

1 share for our noxious weed and rodent control.

2 We -- we do a 50 percent cost share for anyone that -- that
3 wants to help us eradicate or control things. We also provide
4 pesticide, herbicide education through that program as well.

5 And we also have a 300-gallon spray tank that we rent out and
6 then provide a cost share on that -- that use of that as well.

7 We work with and receive grant from BLM for treatment of
8 larger noxious weed areas.

9 We've recently worked -- did projects over the last three
10 springs in Indian Creek and Ferris Creek area, and a little bit in
11 Chicken Creek this last spring.

12 We're looking into going into -- trying to do a project at
13 Schwinn place, which is where the Mill Creek fire was three
14 years ago.

15 We offer higher education scholarships for \$500 apiece up to
16 \$2,000 total annually for any higher education students that are
17 interested in anything that -- that they can justify as a -- a
18 natural resource or ag-related education.

19 There's not -- it's not just about being farmer, rancher
20 or -- or being a conservationist. It's also about the people
21 that work behind the scenes that do -- that do those things.

22 We also offer a range camp fee scholarship. So the
23 Cooperative Extension offers range camp. It begins every Sun- --
24 Father's Day Sunday every year and goes for a week down in Smith
25 Creek. And we offer a scholarship to help any students between
26 the ages of 15 and 18 years old to attend that, to, you know,
27 encourage their education for -- for natural resources and the
28 outdoors.

29 We work with the county very closely with the sage grouse
30 projects. They provide us wonderful funding that we appreciate
31 greatly.

32 And we work with landowners in the county clear -- all over.
33 The entire county is our -- is our district boundaries. So we
34 work with -- we've had projects for creating better sage grouse
35 habitat, creating better breeding ability for them. And -- and
36 just making sure that we're providing the sage grouse a better --
37 an environment -- their natural environment.

38 We try to stay up to date on all the current water resource
39 issues. There -- there have been several things going on. And so
40 our supervisors, you know, attend different meetings throughout

1 the state to -- to try to understand what's going on.

2 And then we also provide education and outreach on natural
3 resources and promote the conservation of natural resource. We
4 try to do things for the school or, you know, provide educational
5 materials.

6 So that's it.

7 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Thank you, Shannon.

8 SHANNON BERUMEN: Any questions?

9 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thank you, Shannon.

10 CHAIRMAN MILLS: We'll go ahead -- comment?

11 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Real quick. Sage grouse habitat
12 projects. What was the --

13 SHANNON BERUMEN: Yes.

14 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: -- did you guys -- where are we at
15 with those?

16 SHANNON BERUMEN: The Tomera Batemen Creek project had some
17 snags with land ownership -- connecting land ownership and
18 right-of-way with the railroad. So that will be completed this
19 spring.

20 And then we have an application in for a new project in Daisy
21 Creek that will take about a week to complete. But they probably
22 won't be starting it until late spring, early summer, somewhere --

23 COMMISSIONER WAITS: And that will use up our 50,000 for
24 this year?

25 SHANNON BERUMEN: Yes. So --

26 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Okay.

27 SHANNON BERUMEN: -- yeah. We will -- for this current
28 fiscal year we're --

29 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Right.

30 SHANNON BERUMEN: -- in? Yes. We will be expending the
31 majority of that with the -- those two current projects.

32 COMMISSIONER WAITS: So they're going to look for money
33 at --

34 SHANNON BERUMEN: And then --

35 COMMISSIONER WAITS: -- budget time for next --

36 SHANNON BERUMEN: And then --

37 COMMISSIONER WAITS: -- year.

38 SHANNON BERUMEN: -- we're -- yeah. We're going to come
39 back and hopefully be able to have some projects ready to go.

40 And that Daisy Creek project is shovel-ready. So they're

1 just waiting on a few -- the minor things and the right timing.
2 And then that'll be --
3 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Awesome.
4 SHANNON BERUMEN: -- done.
5 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: So we're making progress?
6 SHANNON BERUMEN: Yes.
7 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Cool.
8 SHANNON BERUMEN: Yes.
9 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Good job.
10 SHANNON BERUMEN: Yes.
11 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Any other comments?
12 Thank you.
13 Lander County Hospital District.
14 JASON BLEAK: Do you mind if I stand? I've been sitting a
15 little while.
16 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Go right ahead.
17 JASON BLEAK: And -- and I'll kind of face this direction.
18 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: State your name.
19 JASON BLEAK: For the record, I'm Jason Bleak. I'm the new
20 CEO at -- at the hospital district and at the hospital.
21 It's a pleasure for me to be here.
22 I know that Doug has expressed that -- his nervousness about
23 if this is a beneficial meeting or not.
24 Well, it's beneficial for me specifically because now I
25 know who I get to work with individually for the future.
26 And so for that very reason, it's been helpful for me.
27 So -- and I do look forward to working with you all.
28 The hospital functions underneath a little bit different
29 board. We don't report to the county commission. We have a
30 seven-member elected board. And that's who I get to report to.
31 But we are a county entity. And -- and we have responsibility
32 together to make sure that the residents of Lander County are
33 taken care of.
34 I've been blessed with a wonderful board and a wonderful
35 staff.
36 My goal for the future immediately is to stabilize our
37 facilities. What I mean by that is stabilize our -- our staff,
38 stabilize our leadership team, stabilize our finances, stabilize
39 our care.
40 The way that we're going this and the way that I plan to do

1 this is through completing our constructions, our construction
2 projects that -- that have been ongoing. There's a few pieces
3 that are critical to our future, especially in the -- the IT
4 department. We've got to make some big changes there.

5 Getting an electronic health record that is functional
6 across our continuum of care is very important, without having
7 gaps where we lose patient information or where we may lose
8 financial information. We've got to have that strong to
9 stabilize us.

10 Next we need to have some clinical alignment. We need to be
11 able to align our services from ER, into our hospital, if need be
12 into a swing bed, if need be into a long-term care bed, or to get
13 you folks back home. That's our goal -- to get people home, happy
14 and healthy.

15 In the clinic, same thing. We need to see our patients. We
16 need to take care of them and make sure that all of our services
17 are aligned to make it as easy as possible.

18 And another part is our revenue cycle process of recruitment.
19 In the health care industry, revenue cycle is a -- is a key term.
20 And it's actually a description of the process from this -- from
21 the very first phone call to set up a -- an appointment all the
22 way through until the bill is paid. And so everybody in the
23 facility has a part of the revenue cycle.

24 And in order to stabilize our processes or our facility, we
25 need to have a strong revenue cycle. Everybody's involved.

26 I think the -- the -- the main point of -- of our hospital --
27 and I think this is where we all come together -- is that our goal
28 is to take care of our friends, our neighbors, and our families
29 here in Lander County. That's our goal. To make our lives as
30 best as we possibly can. And that's what we're going to do at the
31 hospital.

32 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Jason --

33 JASON BLEAK: I also get to be up here for the EMS. But
34 I've got a couple of helpers that can come help me out as well.
35 But --

36 Are there questions?

37 COMMISSIONER WAITS: We've -- we've expressed it before
38 that we are -- are so glad that you're here. Welcome again to
39 our community.

40 JASON BLEAK: Thank you. And I have felt very welcomed.

1 I cannot wait for my family to be here. Then you'll have
2 five kids running around terrorizing the place. I hope that the
3 sheriff's department doesn't get too upset with us.

4 SHERIFF RON UNGER: I've got a juvenile problem here too.

5 JASON BLEAK: I have come to ask for forgiveness. It's
6 easier that way.

7 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thank you, --

8 JASON BLEAK: Okay.

9 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: -- Jason.

10 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Okay. Other questions? Comments?
11 All right.

12 Let's do Lander County EMS.

13 JASON BLEAK: All right. And I'll invite Kim and Myra.
14 Come on up.

15 You guys have a fully prepared thing?

16 KIM SCHACHT: Absolutely.

17 JASON BLEAK: I'll let you guys go in just a second.

18 KIM SCHACHT: Okay.

19 JASON BLEAK: Okay.

20 They'll be able to speak better on behalf of the EMS.

21 And from what I have seen of the EMS system here, it's got
22 huge potential. And we are going to grow and build and make this
23 just tip-tops.

24 Over the next few weeks or even sooner, one of my
25 responsibilities is to -- to hire a new director of EMS. And so
26 when that happens, there's going to be a transition. There's
27 going to be some learning curve. There's going to be some fun
28 ahead.

29 And so that's one of my goals in the very near future is to
30 replace the -- the director position.

31 And so with that, I'll sit down.

32 KIM SCHACHT: Do you want to start?

33 MYRA WALL: Sure.

34 I'm Myra Wall. And I am acting as a interim director for EMS
35 right up here in northern Lander County.

36 And I guess our duties is pretty understandable. We are here
37 to provide patient care for any emergencies that happen with our
38 local people.

39 But that is not the only things we do because we're actually
40 part of a larger organization as well.

1 Some of our duties, we do lab draws for our DUIs and
2 postmortems for our sheriff's department here.

3 We do support for our POD system for the community as well.
4 And we are also involved in the LEPC.

5 We just got -- we're part of some of the -- several other
6 meetings that we do is Frontier Community Coalition, which we just
7 went to today. And some interesting things that I'm finding it
8 kind of fun to be involved with.

9 One of the things that we talked about or specifically
10 myself with the Nevada -- I'm -- I'm still learning a lot of the
11 ac- -- acronyms, but the health -- what is it? the hospital
12 health -- Nevada rural --

13 KIM SCHACHT: Nevada rural --

14 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: Nevada --

15 JASON BLEAK: Nevada --

16 KIM SCHACHT: -- health --

17 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: -- rural --

18 JASON BLEAK: -- Rural Hospital Partners.

19 MYRA WALL: Thank you. That.

20 JASON BLEAK: NHRP.

21 MYRA WALL: Yes. They are looking at sending myself and
22 some other local people here to deal with the juvenile and some
23 of the prevention programs that are involved with that. So that
24 is to be on in the future.

25 We also do medical standbys for several of the events here.
26 Any of the fire and the fire response -- all fires and fire
27 response calls we go out to.

28 Car races, motocross, ATV races, the human-powered race,
29 that's all part of us.

30 Coming up in May is EMS week. And we are looking at trying
31 to do some -- something new. So that's all kind of up to be
32 played into. But, again, it could change with whoever becomes a
33 director. So --

34 But there are other things, like the drug raids or warrant
35 arrests. We get called out to -- to help with that. And Taser
36 training and pepper-spray training. That's a lot of fun.

37 But currently we have been active in helping Kim down in
38 Austin. There was some things that kind of got slipped through.
39 One of that was Rescue 5 has been at the state level as a BLS
40 level. So we've just gotten involved in getting them upgraded

1 into an ALS state.

2 Talked with Bobby Sullivan at state. And she has been
3 helping me try to figure out the ins and outs of this.

4 So on our permit, Austin is now an ALS unit for when we
5 have paramedics that are down there staffing that ambulance.

6 Even though the majority of the crews down there are ILS, all
7 of the ambulances, Kingston's included are going to be staffed or
8 stocked --

9 KIM SCHACHT: ALS --

10 MYRA WALL: -- at an --

11 KIM SCHACHT: Stocked at ALS.

12 MYRA WALL: -- at an ALS rate -- or at an ALS level. It's
13 kind of up in the air whether all that equipment needs to be on
14 the ambulances right now.

15 But they definitely will be with packs available if the
16 medics go down there. They're definitely all going to be
17 stocked at an ILS level with possibly some -- minus the drugs
18 being down there.

19 But, again, working with state on that.

20 And I will let Kim talk a lot more about the Austin and
21 Kingston because she knows a lot more about it than I do.

22 Some of the goals that we're looking at is we're looking at
23 doing a lot more interfacility transfers and working very much
24 in line with the CEO of the hospital and getting some of that in
25 play.

26 We're also looking at possibly initiating some critical
27 care transports. We do currently have two medics that are on
28 staff that are licensed as critical care paramedics. And we
29 have one nurse. We're currently trying to work on another nurse
30 to be licensed as well in case we need to take some of those
31 transfers too.

32 We've had a couple transfers here in the last couple weeks
33 that definitely could've gone. So we are trying to work on just
34 trying to get that fixed up.

35 Some of the other things we're working on for in the future
36 is protocol enhancements such as -- so right now we have
37 guidelines, which are great for getting us through training and
38 stuff. But we're trying to get it more lo- -- down to more
39 protocol types. Because guidelines kind of give us a- -- ability
40 to waiver, I guess. So it's getting it more down to the brass

1 tacks of what we can and can't do.

2 One of the other things we -- we are looking at -- because I
3 am -- I am currently in the position for education. And we've
4 done a lot in -- with providing CPR for the community. I'm
5 working with doing the EMT class at the high school. And we have
6 a committee EM class -- EMT class right now that is -- has 18
7 people in it.

8 But with regards to the CPR -- and I need to learn a little
9 bit more about it -- but we have the Lander County PAD program.
10 So I don't know where we're at with that. But I know that the ho-
11 -- the EMS dealt with maintaining and managing, like, all of the
12 AED units and the maintenance on that.

13 So the guy that we had involved with that no longer works
14 with the ambulance company. So I need to find out where we
15 stand with that.

16 But if we can figure out that and get that going again, we
17 have the ability to make our community be a Heart Safe community.
18 And basically that -- once that goes through, you -- we will be
19 able to see signs out on the freeway and saying that we are Heart
20 Safe community. Basically the AEDs are all around this community.
21 So that's kind of a neat thing. It's a status thing for us so it
22 would be kind of fun.

23 We're looking at upgrading some of our map programs. And I
24 think we've been working with Undersheriff Quick on that. So just
25 kind of working together to try to get some things put in place.

26 So I'll let Kim tell you what's going on down in Austin.

27 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: I remember her.

28 KIM SCHACHT: Kim Schacht, Lander County EMS.

29 As the coordinator for the south, it is my job to provide the
30 best possibly -- best possible emergency care for the citizens of
31 our rural area.

32 I'm responsible for making sure that our volunteers are
33 current on their certifications and their reports are being
34 submitted properly.

35 I'm responsible for vehicle checks, making sure that they are
36 being performed, making sure that our ambulances are fully stocked
37 and supplies are getting ordered. I am responsible for scheduling
38 maintenance for all of our vehicles and coordinating the response
39 for all the calls in the south. Also I am responsible for working
40 with the fire department to help better our emergency services as

1 a team. And I am the southern representative for LEPC.

2 Southern Lander EMS has come a long way in the last year. We
3 have acquired tools and training that will aid in extrication of
4 patients in an MVA.

5 We have cutters and spreaders, battery-operated rams.
6 We've had -- we just ordered some stabilization equipment so
7 that we can stabilize vehicles, keep ourselves safe when we're
8 extricating.

9 We also acquired a Gator some time ago. And it has been used
10 two times in the last year on rescues.

11 We have two emergency trailers in the south for disaster
12 relief. One of them is a hazmat trailer through LEPC -- or both
13 of those are.

14 Southern Lander County also now has two fully stocked
15 ambulances, as Myra said. One is stationed in Austin. And the
16 other is stationed in Kingston at the fire department.

17 This is a major factor in quality of care and bettering our
18 response time in an emergency.

19 We have one EMT and two AEMTs. We have four drivers on our
20 service. We currently have two out of town EMTs that come in
21 basically per diem and a paramedic that comes to help us out.

22 Currently, two of us are now CPR instructors. I recently
23 submitted my application for the -- for an EMS instructor
24 endorsement, which will be a huge benefit to our community and
25 first responders in the south. This will allow us to stay up to
26 date on our certifications and endorsements locally.

27 Deborah Cardoza and I are both now endorsed for
28 immunizations, which allows us to participate in the flu POD.

29 Currently we have scheduled an EVOC class in an effort to
30 draw in more volunteers for drivers.

31 We have been discussing putting on another EMT class if we
32 can find that we have the interest in the south.

33 We have been working closely with REACH Air Medical to
34 familiarize ourselves and the community with the tools that are
35 available to us.

36 Our goal for the future, in the southern end of the county,
37 is to keep these services going. In such a rural area, these
38 services are what save lives.

39 Education and training for the local volunteers is necessary.
40 That is why I and the volunteers that I work with give as much

1 time as we can.

2 We want to keep working with our local fire and law
3 enforcement on training that will better prepare us for minor to
4 catastrophic events.

5 We want to save lives is our -- is our bottom line.

6 Also, we have -- we would like to educate our citizens on the
7 services that Lander County has made available to them from the
8 flu POD to the benefits of our air medical services.

9 We, at Lander County EMS, would like to thank Keith
10 Westengard and our commissioners for their continued support to
11 keep EMS alive in the south.

12 A big thank you to Anna Penola and your support in keeping
13 our building in working order; Lander County Road and Bridge for
14 always being there for us to keep our rigs in working order and
15 making sure that our path is clear on snowy days; to Lander
16 County Sheriff's Office; Austin and Kingston Fire. This goes to
17 NHP, NDOT. We really require help from everybody when it comes
18 to an emergency in Austin. Lander County EMS in the north. I
19 mean, we need all hands on deck.

20 Thank you for being there and keeping us safe while we do
21 our jobs.

22 It is with the cooperation of everyone that has built the
23 success of our improved services. And it is a lot to be proud of.

24 Lander County EMS in the south has come a long way in the
25 past couple of years. And we look forward to our future as the
26 representative for the southern end of the county and of the
27 hospital.

28 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thank you, Kim.

29 KIM SCHACHT: Sorry. That was a lot longer --

30 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Thank you, Ladies.

31 KIM SCHACHT: -- than I --

32 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Appreciate that.

33 KIM SCHACHT: Any questions?

34 That was double-spaced.

35 All right.

36 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Questions or comments?

37 Okay. Thank you very much.

38 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thank --

39 MYRA WALL: Thank you.

40 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: -- you, Kim.

1 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thank you, Ladies.

3 CHAIRMAN MILLS: We'll move to Land- -- Lander County Board
4 of Commissioners.

5 Start with Judie. Do you have anything you want to add?

6 COMMISSIONER ALLAN: No.

7 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Okay.

8 I'll just say that first off, I'm -- I'm impressed. And I
9 want to congratulate all of you for your dedication to your jobs.
10 I know a lot of times we're on these boards, you're -- you're
11 doing this or that, and the general public probably doesn't have a
12 clue.

13 And you get -- you get underappreciated for the things you
14 do and the hard work that you do. And I just want to thank you
15 for everything.

16 When I became a commissioner I was almost overwhelmed with
17 how much stuff actually happens in the county. I didn't -- I had
18 no idea.

19 And you guys are all -- you guys are all a piece of that
20 whole.

21 And without you guys, a lot of the stuff that we do, we -- we
22 wouldn't have a clue because you -- you find all that information
23 for us. You do a lot of things that -- that really help this
24 county. And I want you to know that I appreciate it.

25 You have -- you have expertise. You have developed skills
26 and knowledge. And you share it. And it's -- it's the way it is
27 sometimes, especially in a small -- and -- well, in any
28 organization. It's always this -- this small group of people that
29 make everything happen. Your faces are the same faces that show
30 up everywhere when -- when things need to be done. And I
31 appreciate you.

32 There's a -- in the last several years there have been a lot
33 of things that have happened in this community, a lot of
34 accomplishments. You've expressed many of them.

35 And I thank you for your work in making those happen.
36 They've been good accomplishments. They've been good additions
37 to the community.

38 We -- we continue to have more things to accomplish.

39 We have a levee to build. We've got water projects to
40 finish. I know the levee's going to be there next year and the

1 year after and the year after for 20 more years. We're going to
2 get it done.

3 There's -- there's always -- there's always more to do.
4 And as we complete things, something new comes up to take its
5 place. And we continue on.

6 And you guys are steady on the course to -- to helping this
7 community be a great community to live in.

8 And you -- you guys really are one of the big reasons that
9 Battle Mountain is really is a neat community. It's a neat
10 place.

11 And there -- there's other people too that make it a neat
12 place. We've got -- we've got the school district and all of the
13 stuff that happens there that -- that adds to that and
14 contributes.

15 There's -- there's private groups and organizations that
16 add to it and contribute to make this really a neat place.
17 But --

18 Let's see. I think that's it.

19 I just want to give you my appreciation. And I -- as -- as
20 Jason mentioned, I've -- I've -- this was my idea to do this
21 meeting. And I've been fearful that it was going to turn into
22 some kind of train-wreck thing.

23 And thank you for -- I -- I think it's been beneficial. I
24 hope you have found it to be beneficial too. And I think that's all
25 I have.

26 Sean?

27 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Oh, I -- well, it's kind of hard to
28 follow up. But all I would have to say is, I do appreciate all
29 the boards coming in here. And without your guys' help and
30 support we wouldn't have the handful of accomplishments that
31 we've had, without all the boards, whether it's LEDA, the
32 Planning Commission, all of them, the DA's Office, Public Works
33 director, Sheriff's Department. And I appreciate everyone's
34 help. And I truly thank you. Thank everyone. Patsy.

35 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Patsy.

36 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Yes. Absolutely.

37 Thank you for your dedication. Thank you for being here
38 tonight with us. We want you to know that we -- we truly do
39 appreciate all of you and the ones that aren't here that still
40 make this community what it is. This county is great.

1 Thank you.
2 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Art?
3 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Thank you for coming tonight. And
4 thank you for all that you do.
5 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Thank you.
6 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Any comments?
7
8

9 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

10
11 CHAIRMAN MILLS: We'll go to public comment.
12 SHERIFF RON UNGER: Good job.
13
14

15 **ADJOURNMENT**

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17 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Motion to adjourn?
18 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: I'll make a motion to adjourn.
19 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Second.
20 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Thank you.
21 UNIDENTIFIED PARTICIPANT: All in favor?
22 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Aye.
23 COMMISSIONER BAKKER: Aye.
24 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Aye.
25 COMMISSIONER WAITS: Aye.
26 CHAIRMAN MILLS: Thank you, all. Appreciate it.
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28 (Meeting ended at 7:15 p.m.)
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**CHAIRMAN OR VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE
BOARD OF LANDER COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS AND THE LANDER
COUNTY LIQUOR BOARD**

ATTEST:

Sadie Sullivan
LANDER COUNTY CLERK

Note: The Board of Lander County Commissioners serves as the Town Board for the unincorporated towns of Battle Mountain and Austin, Nevada.

1 STATE OF UTAH)
2) ss.
3 COUNTY OF DAVIS)
4
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6

7 I, TIFFANY ELKINGTON, A CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER, DO HEREBY
8
9 CERTIFY I TRANSCRIBED THE FOREGOING PROCEEDINGS FROM A "JAVS"
10
11 DIGITAL AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDING OF A MEETING WHICH TOOK PLACE
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13 THE 15TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2018, AND SAID RECORDING AND INFORMATION
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15 PERTAINING TO PARTICIPANT NAMES WAS PROVIDED TO ME BY THE LANDER
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17 COUNTY CLERK SULLIVAN; THAT THE SAME IS FULL, TRUE, AND AS CORRECT AS
18
19 THE AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDING ALLOWED.
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22 DATED AT _____
23 THIS _____ DAY OF _____
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28 TIFFANY ELKINGTON, CCR #930
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