

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA

MONDAY

11:00 A.M.

NOVEMBER 14, 2005

PRESENT:

Bonnie Weber, Chairman
Bob Larkin, Vice Chairman
Jim Galloway, Commissioner
Pete Sferrazza, Commissioner*

Amy Harvey, County Clerk
Katy Singlaub, County Manager
Melanie Foster, Legal Counsel

ABSENT:

David Humke, Commissioner

The Board met in special session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerk called the roll and the Board conducted the following business:

***11:15 a.m.** Commissioner Sferrazza arrived during the following item.

AGENDA

Sam Dehne, local resident, disagreed with the rules concerning public comment. He suggested the Board practice fair government.

Gary Schmidt, Washoe County resident, suggested the Board not approve the agenda. He requested Commissioner Sferrazza place an emergency item on the agenda in regard to a videotape made by the Sheriff's Office during the November 8, 2005 meeting.

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, on motion by Commissioner Larkin, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Humke absent, Chairman Weber ordered that the agenda for the November 14, 2005 special meeting be approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Weber noted the Open Meeting Law does not require a public body to tolerate comments that are willfully disruptive of the meeting by being irrelevant, repetitious, slanderous, offensive, inflammatory, irrational, or amounting to personal

attacks. Section 8.05 of the Nevada Open Meeting Law manual states, “The Chair of a public body may, without the vote of the public body, declare a recess to remove a person who is disrupting the meeting.”

Guy Felton, Reno resident, said decent American government could not exist without openness.

Sam Dehne, local resident, discussed the First Amendment and the rights of public speakers.

Gary Schmidt, Washoe County resident, spoke in regard to the Commission meeting of November 8, 2005 and expressed his views of what occurred during that meeting.

Juanita Cox, local resident, was concerned when citizens speak during the Commission meetings that their First and Fourteenth Amendment rights were being violated.

In response to Mr. Schmidt’s remarks, Commissioner Sferrazza said he chose not to place an emergency item on the agenda because he viewed the occurrences at the November 8, 2005 meeting differently.

**05-1193 DISCUSSION - COMMISSION CHAMBERS REMODEL -
AUDIOVISUAL AND TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES**

Tom Gadd, Public Works Director, discussed the elements of the Chambers and potential remodel including the furnishings, fixtures, audio and electronic equipment. He noted constructive and efficient changes for both the Board and public participation. Mr. Gadd said staff would like to hear ideas and suggestions from the Board to implement the changes. He said staff would return to the Board with a proposal once all of the changes were heard and compiled.

In response to Mr. Gadd, the Board suggested and discussed changes, goals, and ideas they would like to see implemented within the Commission Chambers.

Amy Harvey, County Clerk, requested the Clerk’s staff be placed in a position to view the Commissioners, yet not be interrupted by citizens.

Sam Dehne, local resident, gave suggestions of where the clock should be located within the Chambers.

Juanita Cox, local resident, discussed options for the podium and the microphones used by the public.

Gary Schmidt, Washoe County resident, spoke in favor of the remodel of the Commission Chambers and suggested improvements for the furnishings and audio/visual equipment.

Mr. Gadd noted the equipment currently in the Chambers was approximately 10-15 years old and needed to be replaced and modernized in order to deliver quality presentations. He suggested a digital audio system for the Clerk's Office so the record could be kept on disc rather than audio cassettes and an electronic voting system for the Commissioners. Mr. Gadd discussed various systems available for the County to consider for the Chambers.

After further discussion, the Board directed Mr. Gadd present, a Master Plan and the appropriate budgets for the remodel at the December 20, 2005 meeting.

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

BONNIE WEBER, Chairman
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

AMY HARVEY, County Clerk
and Clerk of the Board of
County Commissioners

*Minutes Prepared by
Stacy Gonzales, Deputy County Clerk*