

The Lander County Subcommittee for Surplus Buildings, met in special session at the Battle Mountain Civic Center, located at 625 Broad Street in Battle Mountain, Nevada, on July 21, 2015 at 6:00 P.M.

**PRESENT: SEAN BAKKER, COMMISSIONER  
ART CLARK III, COMMISSIONER  
DOUG MILLS, COMMISSIONER  
LIZ HEIMBIGNER, COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE  
SADIE SULLIVAN, COUNTY CLERK  
TED HERRERA, DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
KEITH WESTENGARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**6:00 P.M.**

Executive Director Keith Westengard called the meeting to order.

Executive Director Keith Westengard led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Battle Mountain resident, John Fuller, addressed the group with his thoughts on what the economic climate is at this time. He mentioned the drop in gold prices and how the deal with Iran could further affect the price of oil and oil by-products.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

- (1) **Public hearing to receive opinions from members of the public regarding what should be done with the current Lander County Courthouse and Annex, located at 315 S. Humboldt Street, and other matters properly related thereto.**

Battle Mountain resident John Fuller, opened with his idea of demolition of the buildings and converting the entire property into residential lots thus creating an income-producing property through hookup fees and property taxes. Brad Kelley is concerned for the long-term stability of the neighborhood and that additional traffic not be created by any changes that are made. He asked if funds had been set aside for any costs incurred in whatever decision is reached by the commission. Mr. Kelley believes the property should remain under county control to protect the residents. Amy Nelson, Lauren Campbell, Bill Schaeffer, and others expressed their desires to see the buildings remain standing and be put to use for things pertaining to education. The majority of people expressed their wishes to have the courthouse remain standing. Lori Price, the museum director, would like to see the building preserved and used, possibly as the library again. Rita Rogers mentioned moving the library to the old courthouse in order to expand the civic center. Rosemary Fuller had concerns

about moving the library to a building that wouldn't be convenient for the elderly. Daun Bohall asked that the building be preserved, that we look to the future and stop tearing things down. Marla Sam brought up the issue of the safety of the structure. Joe Lindsey from the Building and Planning Department stated some of the areas that improvements have been made and that a full-scale evaluation needs to be done on the property. Jodi Moore asked if the building was ever condemned and Mr. Lindsey said he had heard rumors about that but had never seen any kind of documentation to back it up. Mary Jaramillo expressed her wishes to see the building preserved. Denice Itza wanted to see it preserved and restored. Jorge Gonzalez felt we could find new uses for it that would be useful to the town. Julie Sullivan felt we should take the time to look into what can be done with it, to get creative and offer things to people that would help them decide to stay in the area. Other items mentioned were the costs involved in any decision that was made, zoning changes that might be needed, and if the building would need to be brought up to today's building codes if it changes use.

**(2) Public hearing to receive opinions from members of the public regarding what should be done with the current Family & Youth Services building, located at 190 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, and other matters properly related thereto.**

Bill Schaeffer had a few statements about the building being part of the courthouse. Joe Lindsey from the Building and Planning Department spoke of it being a very old manufactured building that had cats living under it for years. The smell permeates the building and it needs to go. Rita Rogers mentioned that it was formerly the Senior Center and that it was at least 35 years old.

**(3) Public hearing to receive opinions from members of the public regarding what should be done with the current Battle Mountain Preschool, located at 370 S. Mountain Street, and other matters properly related thereto.**

Jana Moyes stated that the preschool is a much needed and important thing to have in Battle Mountain. Lauren Campbell mentioned that there are people in the community with degrees in the childcare field that would be willing to take over the running of the preschool. Keith Westengard interjected with a statement that the building will go out for bid/advertisement on the August 13<sup>th</sup> agenda if it is decided to keep the buildings. Marla Sam wondered why there was a preschool there if the property is zoned for government uses. Cathy Updike and Dusti Gilbert voiced their interest in the building as a viable property that can be used for other types of businesses. Brad Kelley asked for clarification on what will be done at the August 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and if there would be another opportunity to give input. Bill Schaeffer spoke about a preschool needing a playground and that this preschool is the only secular preschool in Battle Mountain. Jana Moyes had questions about whether the building had been donated to the county by the Boy Scouts. She spoke of it being a preschool for at least 43 years and that other groups used it as a meeting place. She also wanted to know who owned the parking lot. Commissioner Clark had a few comments back and forth

with Ms. Moyes regarding the priorities of education and the paying of bills at the preschool. Austen Morse expressed her wishes that the preschool remain. Cathy Updike asked if the meeting was just for input on what to do with the buildings and Keith Westengard stated that it was.

**(4) Public hearing to receive opinions from members of the public regarding what should be done with the current Administration Annex building, located at 825 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, and other matters properly related thereto.**

Amy Nelson commented that the building is a marketable piece of property and the proceeds from a sale could be used for improvements elsewhere. She urged people to think ahead with vision for the future. Marla Sam asked for consideration of adult education needs and possible use of the building. John Fuller and Rita Rogers asked about clarification on what is included with this property.

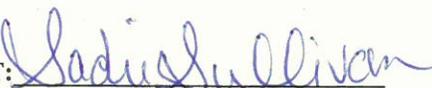
**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jodi Moore asked if the former bank building was included in this conversation and Keith stated that it would be addressed at another time. Lori Price asked when the next opportunity would be to receive more input from the community. It was stated that it would be at 9:00 a.m. during a commissioners' meeting. Bill Schaeffer mentioned that people could send e-mails or letters to the commissioners with their thoughts. Lander County Clerk, Sadie Sullivan, asked that people provide their e-mail addresses if they wanted to receive e-mails on a regular basis. Amy Nelson spoke about Judge Wagner, the old bank building, and more opportunity for the public to be engaged on what to do with the buildings. Brad Kelley provided information on the former bank building and that there might be an agreement that needed to be located to see if it was intended to only be used for education purposes. It may have been around 2004-2005 and would be in the meeting minutes. Julie Sullivan asked if more advertisement had been done for this meeting. Sadie Sullivan spoke on what extra steps had been undertaken to advertise and asked for any suggestions on what could be done to get the word out on any subsequent meetings. Commissioner Sean Bakker expressed thanks to everyone for coming out for the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Commission at this time, Commissioner Art Clark III moved to adjourn the meeting of July 21, 2015. Seconded by Commissioner Sean Bakker, the motion was voted and carried. **ADJOURNED.**

ATTEST:

  
LANDER COUNTY CLERK

  
CHAIRMAN OR VICE CHAIRMAN OF  
THE BOARD OF LANDER COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS AND THE LANDER  
COUNTY LIQUOR BOARD