

**DECEMBER 5, 2019  
SPECIAL MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Larry Rackley, Chairman. Those present were Robert McDougal and Carol Shank, Commissioners; Bryce Shields, District Attorney; Karen Wesner, Administrative Assistant; and Lacey Donaldson, Clerk.

**PUBLIC INPUT:** Tom Moura voiced his concern that there was still snow on the steps of the Courthouse.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE #337 ADDING CHAPTER 3.68, ENTITLED DIESEL FUEL TAX, TO TITLE 3 OF THE PERSHING COUNTY CODE BY IMPOSING A FIVE CENT (0.05) TAX ON DIESEL FUEL SOLD WITHIN PERSHING COUNTY; EXEMPTING CERTAIN DIESEL FUEL FROM TAXATION; PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION, DEPOSITS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF TAX REVENUE; REQUIRING ANNUAL REPORTING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION; ADOPTING SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS TO CERTAIN NEVADA REVISED STATUTES; LIMITING REPEAL; ADDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY RELATING THERETO:** Mr. Shields prepared a synopsis of the Bill. Mr. Rackley asked for any public comment.

Douglas Martin feels this is discriminating against him as he is not a miner or farmer. He also spoke about steam ships in the ocean being required to use DEF. He has heard that this may cause an increase to the cost of diesel. He also stated that he feels that an alternative would be to charge everyone, including those driving electric vehicles, 2 cents.

Mr. McDougal stated that we don't have an alternative. We can either impose this tax or not. Mr. McDougal also stated that he believes the fuel station owners will remain competitive and will absorb the 5 cent increase into their margin.

Mr. Martin doesn't agree that the fuel station owners will absorb the increase. He asked if the Commission would consider decreasing the amount. Mr. Martin did say that improvements to truck parking are direly needed.

Mr. McDougal also stated that DMV has started recording vehicle mileage when registering a vehicle in preparation of a possible change to the taxing structure.

Mr. Rackley spoke about road maintenance that was done last year. He stated that we had prepared to do the same maintenance this year, but our oil bid was out of budget range, so the project had to be delayed.

Tom Moura stated that he is opposed to the 5 cent increase. He spoke about the federal excise tax on diesel compared to that on gas. Mr. Moura feels that if the increase is adopted, we will see a decrease in sales. Mr. Moura stated that he is opposed, but would like the Commission to at least meet him half way.

Bingo Wesner stated that the issue is Grass Valley. They purchase their fuel in Humboldt County. Mr. Wesner also doesn't feel the station owners will absorb the increase.

Geraldine Atkinson asked who is auditing the State. She feels this is unfair to those who own diesel vehicles. Mrs. Shank stated that everyone driving a gasoline car already contributes to the maintenance of our roads and diesel vehicle owners don't. Mrs. Atkinson also stated that based on the synopsis provided by Mr. Shields, even the increase wouldn't provide enough

revenue. Mrs. Shank and Mr. McDougal both clarified that the estimated cost of \$7.5 million would be spent over several years.

Carl Clinger asked if anyone had ever calculated how much business the Chevron in town has driven away. There is already a discrepancy between the prices between here and Winnemucca. Mr. McDougal stated that if you look at Chevron stations anywhere, they are always higher and they're still always busy. Mr. McDougal has no control over how the fuel station owners run their businesses.

Mr. Wesner stated that the people already voted on this and it did not succeed. Mr. McDougal stated that is true, but the Legislature is giving the counties more control than the ballot measure did. Mrs. Shank also stated that there wasn't enough education when the ballot measure was out. No one likes a tax increase, but this keeps the money in our county.

This will be discussed further at a regular county commission meeting. Mr. Shields stated that he is also going to send a Business Impact Statement to local businesses that could possibly be affected by an increase, so after that process happens it will come back before the Board.

**PUBLIC INPUT:** There was no additional public input at this time.

As there was nothing further to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Approved 01/22/20: \_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Carol Shank, Chairwoman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Lacey Donaldson, Clerk