

JEROME COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

PRESENT: Charles Howell, Chairman
John Crozier, Commissioner
Jane White, Deputy Clerk

Meeting convened at 9 A.M.

MICHELLE EMERSON—VOTING LOCATION

Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson and Deputy Clerk/Elections Specialist Cy Lootens were present.

Cy Lootens presented a resolution to designate polling places for the March 10, 2020, election.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to approve Resolution 2020-3. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-3
DESIGNATED POLLING PLACES
January 21, 2020**

WHEREAS, the Jerome County Commissioners having received a request from County Clerk Michelle Emerson to designate polling places for the precincts for the upcoming March 10, 2020, election; and

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners for Jerome County, State of Idaho, the designated polling places stated below shall be the designated polling places as required by Idaho Code Section 34-302.

Precincts

- #1 Bishop-Court
- #2 Canyonside
- #3 Eden
- #4 Falls City
- #5 Hazelton
- #6 Northeast
- #7 Northwest
- #8 Rimrock
- #9 Shepherd-View
- #10 Southeast
- #11 Southwest

Polling Places

- Episcopal Parish Hall, 201 South Adams, Jerome Idaho
- Jerome Recreation District, 2032 South Lincoln Avenue, Jerome, Idaho
- Valley School District #262, 882 Valley Road, Hazelton, Idaho
- Ascension Priory, 541 East 100 South, Jerome, Idaho
- Valley School District #262, 882 Valley Road, Hazelton, Idaho
- Jerome City Library, 100 First Avenue East, Jerome, Idaho
- Jerome School District #261, Administration Building, 125 Fourth Avenue West, Jerome, Idaho
- Jerome Recreation District, 2032 South Lincoln Avenue, Jerome, Idaho
- Jerome Middle School, 520 Tenth Avenue West, Jerome, Idaho
- Jerome School District #261, Administration Building, 125 Fourth Avenue West, Jerome, Idaho
- Jerome School District #261, Administration Building, 125 Fourth Avenue West, Jerome, Idaho

Absentee/Early Voting Jerome County Courthouse, 300 North Lincoln, Room 301, Jerome, Idaho

/s/ Michelle Emerson
Michelle Emerson, Jerome County Clerk

/s/ Charles M. Howell
Charles M. Howell, Chair

(S E A L)

(absent)
A. Ben Crouch, Commissioner

/s/ John Crozier
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TRACEE MCKIM—TECHNOLOGY PURCHASES

Technology Specialist Tracee McKim was present.

Tracee McKim told the Board she would like to replace eight computers, two for the treasurer's office and six in the auditor's office and said the amount necessary was in the FY 2019-20 budget.

9:09 A.M. - Commissioner Crouch was present.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to approve the purchase of computers at \$17,500 as described by Tracee McKim. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

McKim brought a new contract with CenturyLink for Internet service at the jail complex. She said the sheriff's office was in need of increased Internet speed and that the phone company was offering to increase its number of Megs from 20 to 100 at \$150 more per month.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to sign a contract with CenturyLink, to be reviewed for pricing in one year. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

McKim informed the Commissioners that DataTel was running a special in which the County could upgrade its phones by receiving a free phone for every two purchased. She said the total to replace 108 phones would be \$22,000.

➤ A decision was postponed until January 27.

NOMINATION FOR THE MIDDLE SNAKE WATER RESOURCE COMMISSION

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to nominate Dan Suhr to the Middle Snake Water Resource Commission. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

APPROVE TIME RECORDS

The Commissioners signed Time Records for Cody Cantrell, Brent Culbertson, Deserae Jones, Nancy Marshall, and Mario Umana.

BUSINESS AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Board signed an Employee Wage Change for Deputy Sheriff David Edwards as a salary increase for obtaining his Advanced Certificate.

The Board signed a Claims Approval Report dated January 14, 2020, for the Insurance Deductible Trust Fund, with a grand total of \$2,129.87.

The Board signed leave requests for Deserae Jones (2), Mario Umana, Brent Culbertson, and Nancy Marshall.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Crozier reported from seven meetings he had attended as follows.

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- Jerome 20/20. Economic development projects were recapped.
- Fair Board. The Fair manager had indicated to Commissioner Crozier that she was not in favor of accepting any tires for disposal. The Commissioners determined to waive tire disposal fees for James Irwin because of his voluntary efforts to clean tires from the Snake River Canyon.
- South Central Community Action Partnership. Commissioner Crozier had learned of a surplus of food donations.
- Jerome Schools Citizens Advisory Group. Commissioner Crozier had viewed tentative blueprints for a new school.
- Republican Central Committee. A legislative report had been included in a lengthy agenda.
- Crisis Center. Directors had discussed a sustainability plan and had billed Medicare for charges they anticipated would help support the center.
- Commissioners Crozier and Crouch had both attended a Showcase for Commerce at Con Paulos Chevrolet hosted by the Jerome Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Howell had attended the Middle Snake Water Resource Commission, which updated its mission statement and bylaws. He also attended a SIED (Southern Idaho Economic Development) meeting where directors discussed the size of the voting board, which is in addition to the executive board.

Commissioner Howell reported from a meeting about a proposed land conveyance from the Bureau of Land Management to Jerome County. He presented a sheet listing tribal and cultural resource concerns as well as listing encumbrances and permits on the land proposed for transfer.

The Commissioners discussed the concerns and were in favor of maintaining grazing leases as well as allowing Native American tribes to keep their treaty rights, with free access to the Snake River Canyons Park unoccupied areas for their hunting, fishing, and practicing religious beliefs.

➤ It was determined the County would consult the tribes and the Bureau of Land Management about the application for the land transfer.

GREG VAWSER—QUICK RESPONSE UNIT UPDATE

Rock Creek Fire District Chief Aaron Zent and Assistant Chief Greg Vawser were present.

Aaron Zent gave the Commissioners Quick Response Unit written statistics from the Rock Creek Fire District. He said an increase in population had caused a rise in the call volume, which was 6.4 percent higher from 2018 to 2019.

Vawser told the Commissioners that effective January 5, 2020, a two-man crew would be on shift 24 hours a day at Station 1 serving eastern Jerome County.

Zent then answered questions from the Commissioners.

TOUR WILSON LAKE RECREATION AREA

The Commissioners and deputy clerk visited Wilson Lake near Hazelton to see the new bathrooms being completed with the help of a grant from the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. They met Rob Grant there, who is the director of the Valley Recreation District. He had opened the pit toilets for viewing and explained that there were two 1,000-gallon tanks under the toilets. Backfilling around the structure was remaining to complete the project.

VISIT EDEN SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER FOR LUNCH

The Commissioners and deputy clerk then went to the Eden Senior Citizen Center and shared lunch with about 40 diners. Commissioner Howell talked with Director Pat Bruning about applying for a grant jointly with the Valley Recreation District for a new building. Commissioner Crouch then presented the County's \$6500 FY 2019-20 donation for the Center.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT CONVEYANCE

Present were Mike Tylka, Don Zuck, and Kellee Traughber, all representing the Snake River Canyons Park.

The Commissioners agreed on their priorities regarding a request to the Bureau of Land Management for land conveyances. Their top preferences were: (1) an area for a gun range, (2) Yingst Grade, (3) an overlook site, and (4) Devil's Corral.

Commissioner Crouch suggested a first right of refusal for a conveyance on Indian ground.

NANCY MARSHALL—PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT

Planning and Zoning Administrator Nancy Marshall was present.

Nancy Marshall read December statistics from her monthly department head report and answered questions from the Commissioners.

Attorney Mike Seib was present.

Mike Seib advised about the upcoming public hearing that evening on rezoning around Eden. He said that the Commissioners needed to amend the Jerome County Zoning Ordinance to comply with the Comprehensive Plan. He explained that the first step was revising the Comp Plan, while the second step is making the County ordinances fit the Plan. He said that the Plan recognizes the Interstate, the Valley School, and the growth pattern of the County and that an A1 (agriculture) zone might no longer be appropriate around the School.

Seib told the Commissioners every relevant comment should be supported from the Comprehensive Plan.

Marshall added that it is the Commissioners' obligation to zone the County to fit the Comprehensive Plan.

Seib stated that authority comes from the County ordinances, which support the Comprehensive Plan.

LARRY HALL—QUARTERLY JEROME 20/20 UPDATE

Attorney Mike Seib was present. Also present were Jerome 20/20 Executive Director Larry Hall and Southern Idaho Tourism Director Melissa Barry.

Update: Larry Hall reviewed a written update of eight County projects and eight more projects within the City of Jerome.

Sign Wilson Lake Bathrooms County Match: This matter was continued until January 27.

Public Hearing: Hall held a public hearing for two grant applications to the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. The first grant was for a Parking Lot Project in the Snake River Canyons Park. Hall said the parking lot would be less than an acre at a cost under \$35,000, with a \$15,000 match from Jerome County. He stated the parking lot would be located at the Ricketts Memorial Trailhead with access to Emigrant and Walgamott Roads and would be fed by a 300-yard access road already in place.

The second grant was for the Broken Bridge Project. Hall said the bridge would cross the Snake River, connecting the Yingst Grade road in Jerome County and the Auger Falls Road in Twin Falls County. The total cost to repair the bridge would be \$200,000, with a \$10,000 match expected from Jerome County.

Melissa Barry said the Idaho Transportation Department had destroyed both sides of the bridge but that people were using it in its unsafe condition.

- Hall stated he did not expect a decision from the grant applications until after July.

MIKE SEIB—LEGAL COUNSEL

Attorney Mike Seib was present.

Agreement with Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center: Mike Seib counseled that he did not know the purpose of signing an agreement for mental holds with the medical center in Idaho Falls because the County would pay the same rate with or without a contract. The Board opted not to sign the agreement.

Road Maintenance: Seib advised that even if the County owns a road, it is not responsible to maintain it because the County does not have a roads department.

READ AND APPROVE MINUTES

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to approve the minutes of January 13 as read. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

INDIGENT MATTERS

Social Services Director Kim Drury was present.

Kim Drury followed up from a question on January 13 about reinstating an indigent lien by saying that both the client and his new wife had signed a promissory note and a consent to lien for newly purchased property.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to sign the releases of liens for Case Nos. 0405-139 and 0506-072 to make possible the signing of a new lien. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to follow staff recommendations for indigent matters. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes. Dismissed was Case No. 1819-097. An Order of Suspension was signed for Case No. 1819-137.

PRESENT LONGEVITY AWARDS

This matter was continued until January 27.

Meeting recessed at 5 P.M.

Meeting reconvened at 6 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING—EAST SIDE ZONING MAP AMENDMENT (recorded)

Planning and Zoning Administrator Nancy Marshall and Zoning Clerk Kacie Buhler were present. Also present were Tom Brune, Ronald (Dave) Long, Valerie Stigile, Kelly Stigile, Blaine Campbell, Kade Beorchia, Michelle Taylor, Susan Vineyard, Dianne Hanson, Carleen Greber, Evan Black, Juanita Black, Jana Sellers, Curtis Jones, Gary Slette, Ange Black, Kim Beames, Kevin Black, Kevin Gergen, and Steve Dollar.

Commissioner Howell invited audience comments regarding proposed zoning map amendments for the east side of Jerome County.

Tom Brune: Tom Brune presented an exhibit and then referred to a proposed heavy industrial area on a map, which he said he opposed. He told the Commissioners all the persons who had signed the letter he presented would like the area in question to remain A1 [Agriculture] unless a party requests the establishment of an industry. He asked if the rezone application was at the request of an entity.

Commissioner Howell explained that it was the responsibility of the Board of Commissioners to adopt County ordinances that agree with the County's updated Comprehensive Plan.

Ronald Long told the Commissioners that the proposed heavy industrial zones would ruin the quality of life for him and many of his neighbors. He said they lived in their locations because they are zoned agricultural and that an industrial zone would devalue their properties.

Blaine Campbell: Blaine Campbell, as the mayor of Eden, spoke in favor of the proposed AL [Agriculture Limited] zone and said it would protect the City's water supply.

Kade Beorchia: Kade Beorchia, attorney for the City of Eden, said the City supports the rezoning around the City as AL.

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Jana Sellers: Jana Sellers told the Board she was in favor of the proposed AL zone in order to prevent a dairy from locating too near to Eden and the Valley School but that she did not know how far it should extend. She verified that the Commissioners were in receipt of a letter from the Valley School in support of the rezoning.

Curtis Jones: Curtis Jones opposed rezoning part of his A1 property to AL and part to IH [Industrial Heavy], which he said would split his animal feeding operation into three zones. Commissioner Howell confirmed with Jones that he would like all of his property to remain zoned agricultural.

Gary Slette: Gary Slette spoke as a lawyer for a group of people he named in the Eden area. He said the Planning and Zoning Commission had heard nearly two hours of testimony in opposition to the proposed rezoning and had recommended denying the legislation. He said there were philosophical and legal objections to the rezones.

Slette questioned how the Commissioners could make a fair decision if they were sponsoring the rezones.

Commissioner Crozier said that he had stated he wanted to support changes that would protect the Valley School at an Eden City Council meeting but that he had not expressed an opinion on the industrial rezoning.

Slette continued by saying that Eden's Area of City Impact and the Comprehensive Plan already protect the Valley School and the City of Eden. He also said it would not be fair to impose more land restrictions and that the application was flawed. He declared the law of Idaho does not state that zoning has to be changed to match the Comprehensive Plan. He added that there is no reason to change zoning now and that his clients want to save their ways of life.

Commissioner Howell called for a ten-minute recess. He then asked for the staff report.

Nancy Marshall referred to the written staff report provided to the Commissioners. She said the staff agrees with moving the industrial zones and that all property of Curtis Jones should be zoned agricultural.

Commissioner Howell offered to have closing remarks from the audience.

Kim Beames stated she supported Mr. Long's and Mr. Brune's opinions. She said changes should be made piece by piece so residents have a say in how the County grows.

Commissioner Howell explained the County needs to rezone to reflect what is wanted in a certain area.

Gary Slette showed the location of the Valley School on a wall map. He advocated not changing the zoning so that everyone could have input at hearings for change. He also asked that the

Commissioners make their decision on the rezoning in an evening meeting so more residents could hear their reasoning.

Tom Brune agreed with Slette. He also suggested creating a school impact zone.

Kade Beorchia said changing the zoning would make it difficult for someone to introduce something that the Eden community would not like.

Curtis Jones concluded comments by saying he opposed AL zoning.

Commissioner Howell closed the testimony at the public hearing.

Marshall recommended that the Commissioners review what had been submitted and hold discussion on the proposals before making a decision.

Commissioner Crozier said he would like to become more familiar with the zoning information before making a decision, and Commissioner Crouch agreed.

Commissioner Howell said the Board would consider holding another evening meeting for its discussion and decision and asked that the Planning and Zoning staff send letters to those present advising them of the discussion day and time to be determined by the Commissioners.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 P.M.

Respectively submitted:

Charles M. Howell, Chairman

Jane White, Deputy Clerk

A. Ben Crouch, Vice Chairman

John Crozier, Commissioner