

## **JEROME COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Monday, January 29, 2018

PRESENT: Charles Howell, Chairman  
Catherine Roemer, Vice Chairman  
Roger Morley, Commissioner  
Jane White, Deputy Clerk

Meeting convened at 9 A.M.

Also present was Glenneda Zuiderveld, who signed in as a citizen/evaluating.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Commissioner Morley reported from a board meeting of the Southern Idaho Regional Solid Waste District. He said the audit report was favorable; Jerome County contributed less waste in December; directors are planning a booth at the Fair in August; and the gas to energy project would be in operation in another year.

Commissioner Morley had also attended two meetings about the dairy research center planned by the University of Idaho. He told the Board the University had narrowed its decision for the location of the center to three sites in Jerome County. He gave other information about the project and said one of the functions of the dairy would be studying water use.

Commissioner Howell reported from a Bureau of Land Management Advisory Council meeting and said a public hearing would be set for changes to trails. He also related that an engineering firm had volunteered to map an alternate access for a viewpoint in the Snake River Canyons Park.

All three Commissioners had attended a class on highway safety presented by the sheriff's office. Employee participation in the class and in online training had qualified the County for a discount on its liability insurance premium.

### **SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT**

The Board was in receipt of a corrected Memorandum of Understanding with the South Central Public Health District. Emergency Management Coordinator Tanya Stitt had introduced the Memorandum to the Board on January 16, explaining that it would include the Office of Emergency Management with the Health District's Public Health Preparedness Program.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the South Central Public Health District as written. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

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## **WAIVE FEES FOR BOUNDARY LINE ADJUSTMENT FOR HAZELTON CEMETERY DISTRICT**

Planning and Zoning Administrator Art Brown and P&Z Assistant Administrator Nancy Marshall were present. Also present was Jim Louder, chairman of the Hazelton Cemetery Maintenance District.

The Hazelton Cemetery District desired to enlarge its cemetery, with three lots involved in its boundary line adjustment.

Brown believed it would be appropriate to waive fees for the adjustment since the cemetery is a taxing district.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Morley to waive the \$140 application fee and the \$45 GIS fee for the boundary line adjustment of the Hazelton Cemetery District. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

## **NOVEMBER 29 MINUTES CORRECTION**

Hazelton City Deputy Clerk Angela Black had advised of an error in the November 29 minutes that the Commissioners had approved.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to correct the November 29 minutes to change “Jack Duffer” to “Jack Cooper.” It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

## **NEW BREAK ROOM**

Planning and Zoning Administrator Art Brown was present.

The Board discussed with Brown his suggestions for a new break room. The Commissioners determined to remain with their decision the previous week to move the break room to the former law library.

## **APPOINT GARY WARR TO THE SNAKE RIVER CANYONS PARK BOARD**

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to appoint Gary Warr to the Snake River Canyons Park Board. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

## **BUSINESS AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

Election Specialist Cy Lootens was present. Lootens responded to a question from the Jerome Cemetery Maintenance District about swearing in directors. He told the Board the three directors originally appointed by Governor Otter had filed to run in the November 2017 election but were uncontested, so no election was held.

Lootens said the cemetery board secretary could swear in the directors for the terms appropriate to their districts, which would be four-year terms for Walt Appel and Jeff Mecham (Sub-districts 1 and 2, respectively), and a two-year term for Carolyn Sullivan (Sub-district 3). Thereafter, all directors would be elected for four-year terms.

The Board signed two leave requests for Brent Culbertson.

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The Board signed a Personnel Action Form for Deputy Sheriff Mickey Glauner for a salary increase.

The Board signed a Direct Deposit Detail with a total of \$100,234.65 and a Payroll Claims Approval by Fund with a total of \$110,256.57, both dated January 24, 2018, for the January 26, 2018, payroll.

#### **CODY CANTRELL—VETERANS REPORT**

Veterans Service Officer Cody Cantrell was not present because he was ill.

#### **GEORGE OPPEDYK—CONTRACT WITH IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION**

Deputy Sheriff George Oppedyk and Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson were present. Also present were Benjamin Reed, Susie Ries, and Noemi Juarez, all affiliated with Jerome United Making Progress (J.U.M.P.).

Deputy Oppedyk expressed two concerns about signing a contract to accept prisoners from the Idaho Department of Correction (IDOC). He questioned the amount offered per day and the type of convicts housed. The IDOC had offered \$45 per day per inmate, with a guaranteed payment for 50 beds. Deputy Oppedyk was apprehensive about reserving 50 beds because the jail was currently accepting State prisoners.

Commissioner Howell suggested sending a revised contract to the IDOC that would address Oppedyk's concerns.

Deputy Oppedyk said there was a potential for Jerome to be able to accept prisoners from both the IDOC and the Marshals Service, which had addressed the Board on January 22.

➤ It was determined Deputy Oppedyk and the jail administrator would draft some revisions to the contract proposed by the IDOC and return to the Board on February 12.

Reed thanked the Commissioners for considering different options for operating the County's jail at maximum capacity and expressed concerns about the offer from the Marshals Service as well as opposed any contract with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

#### **MARTHA LINARES—HOMEOWNER'S EXEMPTION**

Treasurer Tevian Ekren-Kober and Assessor Rick Haberman were present. Also present were Martha Linares and her interpreter Rosie Davalos.

Davalos interpreted for homeowner Linares, telling the Board that Linares wanted her 2018 taxes lowered because they had doubled in 2017.

Haberman explained that his office received a change of address for Linares from the post office and subsequently sent Linares a letter inquiring whether she had moved from her residence with

the homeowner's exemption. He said his office removed the homeowner exemption because it had not received its letter returned or a response from Linares.

Davalos interpreted that the address change was to send Linares's correspondence to her daughter to help Linares pay her bills.

Commissioner Roemer asked what the process would be to reinstate the homeowner exemption, and Ekren-Kober said it had been reinstated for 2018. The treasurer advised that Linares owed for both 2016 and 2017 taxes, which was interpreted to Linares. The Board also told Linares (through her interpreter) that interest on back taxes was accruing at one percent per month of delinquency.

➤ It was determined Linares would talk with her daughter and that she had just been concerned about her 2018 taxes.

Zuiderveld was excused.

Meeting recessed at 11:28 A.M.

Meeting reconvened at 1:20 P.M.

#### **MICHELLE EMERSON—CLERK MATTERS**

Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson was present.

**Vessel Fund Retention:** Emerson presented for signature a request to the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation to retain unused vessel fees for a project at Wilson Lake.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to approve the request for retention of vessel funds from the Department of Parks and Recreation in the amount of \$3,464.84. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

**Part-time Position:** The Board had deliberated on January 22 whether to hire a human resource (HR) employee full- or part-time and had determined to ask the County clerk if she needed a part-time employee.

Emerson told the Board she could use a bilingual employee but that none of the current applicants for the HR position was such. She said it would be a conflict to swear in a deputy clerk to work in her office part-time and added that an option would be for her to be the supervisor of the HR employee.

#### **HUMAN RESOURCE APPLICATIONS**

The Board considered whether to hire a human resource specialist for a full- or part-time position and determined to offer a full-time position. The Commissioners then agreed on three applicants they would like to interview for the open position.

**BRENT CULBERTSON—PLANNING AND ZONING MOVE**

Maintenance Supervisor Brent Culbertson, Planning and Zoning Administrator Art Brown, P&Z Assistant Administrator Nancy Marshall, Building Inspector Rick Kirsch, and Permit Technician Sharde McMillan were present.

The Board discussed with Culbertson renovations it would like done before the Planning and Zoning Department moves to its new offices, asking that he repaint, recarpet, and replace windows. Culbertson said the bathroom also needed new flooring.

The Commissioners conversed with Kirsch about his office needs. It was determined to remove the counter in the current mapping office and to add a wall to allow two offices for Kirsch and McMillan. Kirsch also suggested a movable counter large enough to display maps as well as chairs for a waiting area.

➤ It was determined Kirsch would bring the Board a price for the desk he suggested and that the P&Z Department would check to see what office furniture was available from the Office of Emergency Management.

Culbertson, Kirsch, and McMillan were excused.

Brown and Marshall said their department would need two desks and a stand-up desk. Brown said the desk for the mapping department would need to be on rollers and able to be adjusted high or low.

Commissioner Howell said the desk expenses could be taken from the general budget.

**NANCY MARSHALL—SIGN ZONING MAPS**

Planning and Zoning Administrator Art Brown, P&Z Assistant Administrator Nancy Marshall, and Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson were present.

The P&Z Department asked that Commissioner Howell and Emerson sign a new zoning map, due to a typographical error.

**JAMIE RUPERT—PROPERTY APPRAISAL**

Fair Manager Jamie Rupert was present.

Rupert presented an appraisal of property across from the Fairgrounds that she and the Fair Board recommended the County purchase as a residence for the Fair's maintenance supervisor.

➤ The Board favored pursuing a purchase and determined to consult the County auditor and obtain more information about rental prices.

**JACK JOHNSON AND DOUG HUGHES—JAIL BED SPACE**

Deputy Sheriff George Oppedyk and Attorney Mike Seib were present. Also present were Twin Falls County Commissioner Jack Johnson and Jail Commander Doug Hughes.

Commissioner Johnson stated he would like to discuss a contract for Jerome County to house Twin Falls County inmates. He said his county could currently provide 35 prisoners rather than transporting them as far away as Latah County.

Commander Hughes said Twin Falls would pay \$50-\$60 per bed per day and that the county had experienced an overflow of inmates since the previous August.

Deputy Oppedyk believed the Jerome correctional facility could house Twin Falls County inmates and either inmates from the Marshals Service or the State penitentiary.

Both Commissioner Howell and Deputy Oppedyk expressed that housing Magic Valley inmates would be Jerome County's first priority.

➤ It was determined Commissioner Johnson would work with Deputy Oppedyk to present a contract to the Board.

#### **MIKE SEIB—LEGAL COUNSEL**

Attorney Mike Seib was present.

**Airport:** The Jerome Airport manager had expressed concerns and made suggestions about a proposed contract from Precision Aviation to sell fuel at the Airport. Commissioner Roemer desired that the Airport Advisory Board make a recommendation to the Commissioners.

**Eden Area of City Impact:** Seib counseled about the proposed Eden Area of City Impact in preparation of the Commissioners meeting with the Eden City Council. He said an area of city impact should not be dictated by public opinion but rather by what fits with the Jerome County Comprehensive Plan.

**Snake River Canyons Park:** Seib advised in response to a question from the secretary of the Snake River Canyons Park Managing Board about informing interested landowners of Park Board actions. He said the secretary could add to her mailing list whoever expresses an interest in being informed.

#### **READ AND APPROVE MINUTES**

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Roemer to approve the minutes of January 11 and 22 as presented. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

#### **INDIGENT MATTERS**

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Morley to accept the indigent matters as written. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes. Approved was Case No. 1718-021. Denied was Case No. 1718-020; dismissed was Case No. 1617-060.

Meeting adjourned at 4:39 P.M.

Respectively submitted:

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Jane White, Deputy Clerk

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Charles M. Howell, Chairman

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Catherine M. Roemer, Commissioner

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Roger M. Morley, Commissioner