

## **JEROME COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

PRESENT: Ben Crouch, Vice Chairman  
John Crozier, Commissioner  
Jane White, Deputy Clerk

Meeting convened at 9 A.M.

Commissioner Howell was excused because he was on vacation.

### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Crozier reported from a board meeting of the Jerome Highway District. Chuck Wiegard had requested road maintenance in his subdivision, but no solution was reached. The Commissioner had also participated in a community service project for the Community School Strategic Partnership in which boxes were prepared for mobile libraries.

Commissioners Crozier and Crouch had both attended the State of the City address given by Jerome Mayor Dave Davis.

Commissioner Crouch had attended a Fair Board meeting and had participated as a director on the Jerome Chamber of Commerce Board. Commissioner Crozier said he had given information to the Fair manager about the services available from the REDS [Rural Economic Development Services] arm of the Southern Idaho Economic Development organization.

### **LOMBARD CONRAD ARCHITECTS CLAIM**

The Board had received a revised invoice from Lombard Conrad Architects for administration and construction costs of a jail addition.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to approve the Lombard Conrad Architects claim for \$63,740.46, as corrected. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

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

The Commissioners signed two Alcohol Beverage Catering Permits for Soran Restaurants, Inc., Twin Falls, to be used February 19, 2020, from 4:30 P.M. to 8 P.M. at Southern Idaho RV & Marine, 60 Bob Barton Road, Jerome; and March 5, 2020, from 5 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. at 200 North 383 West, Jerome.

The Board signed a Claims Approval Report dated February 13, 2020, for the Insurance Deductible Trust Fund, with a grand total of \$6,821.74.

The Board signed a Claims Approval Report dated February 13, 2020, for the Insurance Deductible Trust Fund, with a grand total of \$2,168.48.

The Board signed leave requests for Brent Culbertson (3), Deserae Jones, and Mario Umana.

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### **APPROVE TIME RECORDS**

The Board signed Time Records for Cody Cantrell, Brent Culbertson, Deserae Jones, Nancy Marshall, and Mario Umana for the February 2, 2020, through February 15, 2020, payroll period.

### **TAX EXEMPTION FOR SCHOOL**

The Board was in receipt of a Property Tax Exemption Application from Great America Financial Services for School District #261. Commissioner Crozier phoned the company claiming the exemption to obtain more information, and Commissioner Crouch attempted to reach the Jerome school district about the application.

- The matter was continued until February 24.

### **KIM DRURY—INDIGENT LIEN**

Social Services Director Kim Drury was present.

**Indigent Lien:** Kim Drury explained that a client and his wife had signed a promissory note and a consent to lien and would like the County to release a lien placed by the Social Services department and attach it to property they are purchasing. She said the couple had also signed a wage assignment for their account, which is in collections.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to release the lien for Case No. 0405-194 and reinstate the lien and a garnishment after closing. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

**Memorandum:** Drury also explained a Memorandum in Support of Appeal from Mark Peterson, attorney for St. Luke's. She said the hospital was disputing the County's denial of an application for medical assistance, which she said the County denied because it could not establish the patient's County residency.

- Drury said she would send the case to the County attorney as well as to the Idaho Catastrophic Health Care Cost Program for review.

### **INDIGENT MATTERS**

The Board signed indigent documents presented by staff. Dismissed were Case Nos. 1819-135 and 1819-139.

### **BRIAN SIMPER—PEST ABATEMENT DISTRICT**

Brian Simper, representing the Twin Falls Pest Abatement District, was present.

Brian Simper presented the Board with an annual report of the Twin Falls County Pest Abatement District. He told of the District's efforts in abating black flies and mosquitoes. He stated that black flies have a huge impact to livestock because they can spread a highly contagious disease. Simper said the District treats fly larvae when the water is low in the Snake River between Twin Falls and Jerome Counties.

Simper said the abatement district could be a resource for Jerome County and recommended treating Wilson Lake. He cautioned that the District controls the number of pests but is not able to eradicate all of them. He also advised the County not to panic if it experiences an outbreak of West Nile Virus.

### **BRENT CULBERTSON—WINDOW REPLACEMENTS**

Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson, Chief Deputy Clerk Tracee McKim, and Maintenance Supervisor Brent Culbertson were present.

**Window Replacements:** Brent Culbertson presented a proposal from Twin Falls Glass to replace windows in the older section of the Courthouse. He said the cost was planned for in the FY 2019-20 budget. He explained that the windows would replace single-pane windows on the west side of the building and two windows on the north side.

The Commissioners discussed the condition of the Courthouse with Culbertson, and all agreed that it is in good condition and well built.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to approve the amount of \$30,000 for the replacement of 12 windows on the west and north sides of the Courthouse, as bid by Twin Falls Glass. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

### **MICHELLE EMERSON—EQUIPMENT PURCHASES**

Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson and Chief Deputy Clerk Tracee McKim were present.

**Equipment Purchase for the Recorder's Office:** Tracee McKim told the Board about three purchases needed for the clerk's office. (1) She said a new Reader was needed in order to obtain good images from records on microfilm. (2) She requested the purchase of PaperVision, which is document management software to organize a huge database and make it easier to find records. McKim recommended purchasing six licenses to enable that many employees to use the program at the same time. (3) A large Scanner would scan 110 pages per minute, with 50,000 scans per day possible.

Michelle Emerson stated she had sent some records out for scanning but that it would save money to scan them in house.

McKim recommended dividing the purchase prices between the District Court Fund and the General Fund.

McKim and Emerson expected it would take several years to complete the scanning projects.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to approve \$28,895 for archival records maintenance equipment and services with \$11,560 from the District Court Fund, and \$17,335 from the General Fund. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

Meeting recessed at 11:45 A.M.

Meeting reconvened at 1:15 P.M.

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### **LUIS GOMEZ—HOMEOWNER’S EXEMPTION**

Assessor Rick Haberman was present. Also present were Luis Gomez and Carmen Pulieo.

Luis Gomez sought relief from his property taxes, explaining that he did not know he had lost his homeowner’s exemption when he refinanced his house about a year ago. He said it was a hardship paying a double amount of taxes.

Rick Haberman explained that when Gomez refinanced, he had taken his mother’s name off the joint deed but had listed his name differently, causing the assessor’s office to believe it was a new homeowner who had not filed for a homeowner’s exemption.

Gomez said he had spoken with the County treasurer about his taxes, who had advised him to address the Commissioners because she did not have the authority to exempt taxes.

Commissioner Crozier requested to speak with Treasurer Tevian Ekren-Kober, who was then present.

Tevian Ekren-Kober brought the tax statement for Gomez, which showed that he had paid the first half of 2019 taxes.

The Commissioners determined to reduce the amount of taxes owed as if a homeowner’s exemption was valid for 2019, leaving only a \$38 refuse fee due in June 2020.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to approve the tax exemption for Luis Gomez in the amount of \$1,026.25. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

### **MICHELLE EMERSON—EQUIPMENT PURCHASE, Continued**

Tracee McKim had explained in the noon hour how she had made a mistake on the cost of one of the projects for the clerk’s office.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to add \$3,115 for the price of a three-year maintenance agreement for a reader and scanner system. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 P.M.

Respectively submitted:

(absent)

Charles M. Howell, Chairman

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Jane White, Deputy Clerk

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A. Ben Crouch, Vice Chairman

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John Crozier, Commissioner