

JEROME COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Monday, March 18, 2019

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

Meeting convened at 9 A.M.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Crozier reported he had attended five functions of interest to the County the previous week. (1) He had met with the Eden City Council to introduce the executive director of Jerome 20/20 to tell how the organization can help the County. (2) The Fair Board had discussed details for the 2019 Fair and was looking for long-term solutions for improving the Fair. (3) The Crisis Center board was working on a sustainability plan in order to rely on State funding for only half of its functioning and had begun billing Medicaid when applicable. (4) Commissioner Crozier had also attended a Jerome 20/20 luncheon and (5) a Jerome Chamber of Commerce dinner.

Commissioner Crouch had participated as a director on the Jerome Chamber of Commerce board and had also attended the Chamber's recognition banquet. In addition, he had attended the Jerome 20/20 annual luncheon and had participated in a Valley School district fundraiser along with Commissioner Howell.

Commissioner Howell reported from a SIRCOMM (emergency communications) meeting about budget concerns and from meetings of the executive and general boards for the Southern Idaho Economic Development organization. The executive board had heard a presentation on a proposed hotel on the south side of the Snake River Canyon, which the Twin Falls County Planning and Zoning Commission had declined to recommend.

PRESS RELEASE FOR THE SNAKE RIVER CANYONS PARK

Present were Don Zuck, Greg Moore, Jeff Pierson, and Kellee Traugber, all representing the Snake River Canyons Park Board, as well as Jerry Holton.

Don Zuck presented a press release concerning an ordinance planned by the Commissioners to be in effect by May 1 that would prohibit recreational shooting in an area on the west side of the Snake River Canyons Park.

The Board reviewed the release and gave Zuck a revised version. He later submitted the revision, which the Commissioners accepted for publication.

Jerry Holton expressed opposition to a proposed long-term solution to create a safe shooting area north of the freeway, saying that increased shooting in that area would move deer from the area used by archer hunters.

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- The Board suggested that Holton attend Snake River Canyons Park Board meetings.

COMFORT SUITES CONTRACT

The Board continued its consideration from March 11 of a contract with Comfort Suites in Boise.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to sign a contract with Comfort Suites Airport for future needs of County employees. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

APPROVE TIME RECORDS

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

BUSINESS AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Board determined that Commissioner Crozier would report from highway district meetings and that Commissioner Crouch would attend Jerome Recreation District meetings.

The Board signed a Claims Approval Report dated March 13, 2019, for the Insurance Deductible Trust Fund, with a grand total of \$3,284.08.

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

NANCY MARSHALL—AG PERMIT REFUND

Planning and Zoning Administrator Nancy Marshall was present.

Nancy Marshall explained the need to refund a building permit, saying that the permit holder no longer wished to build the horse shed listed on his permit.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier that the County refund Roberto Almanza's building permit, per his request, minus a 10 percent administration fee, for a total refund of \$105. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

Meeting recessed at 11:41 A.M.

Meeting reconvened at 1:15 P.M.

TIM LARSON—AIRPORTS REPORT

Airports Manager Tim Larson was present.

Report: Tim Larson presented a Grant Closeout Letter from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for a \$1,043,988 grant received for rehabilitation at the Jerome County Airport. He also gave a bid of \$3,407 from the Tri-County Noxious Weed Control District to kill weeds twice (once in May and once in June) at the Jerome Airport. He said he would seek bids from other entities for ground sterilant.

Larson said he had consulted the FAA flight standards officer in Boise, who said a spray plan and closing the airport would be necessary for aerial spraying of the Jerome Airport. He had also

conferred with Red Baron Ag Service, which would like to perform test sprays at the Hazelton Airport before spraying the Jerome Airport.

Fuel Hoses: Larson said a new hose was on order.

Concrete Work: Larson said he had consulted the County maintenance supervisor about pouring concrete at the Jerome Airport and that he was expecting a cost estimate. He had also spoken with the airport advisory board members about a concrete pad for the fuel hoses, who had recommended a site, to which the Commissioners agreed.

2019 Airports Plan: Larson presented a written plan for the County airports as requested by the Commissioners on February 19. It included plans and resources needed for the next one to two months, three to four months, and six to nine months as well as two to three years and three to five plus years.

➤ The Commissioners asked that the Jerome Airport be immaculate by June 1, including the areas around the hangars for which the renters are responsible. They also requested that Larson develop a schedule for equipment maintenance.

CY LOOTENS—CANVASS MARCH 11 ELECTIONS

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

Canvass March 11 Elections: Cy Lootens presented for signature an Election Canvass Certification. Voters in the Jerome school district had approved (368-144) a supplemental levy for \$800,000 each year for two years, while voters in the Minidoka school district had not approved (17-14) the issuance of \$21,000,000 in school bonds for six school upgrades because a super majority was required.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to approve the canvassing of the election results of the Jerome School District #261 levy election and the Minidoka School District #331 bond election. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

Poll Worker Wages: Lootens stated the clerk's office recommended changing poll worker wages to \$10 per hour or to \$10.50 per hour for both junior and senior judges, and to increase mileage paid to equal that paid to other County employees.

Emerson explained that the increases would more closely match what surrounding counties pay.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to approve the rate increases for poll workers and a mileage increase to \$.58 per mile. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

TEVIAN EKREN-KOBER—TAX CANCELLATIONS

Treasurer Tevian Ekren-Kober was present.

Tevian Ekren-Kober presented and explained four Letters of Cancellation.

(1) A mobile home in the name of Lyle Bullock was offered for auction on June 13, 2017, because of taxes owing but was found abandoned, with no one bidding on it. Ekren-Kober said she could not attach the taxes to the property where the home was located because it belonged to someone else.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to cancel the remaining tax, penalty, and interest in the amount of \$430.93 for Lyle Bullock. It was seconded and carried with ayes.

(2) Ekren-Kober said another mobile home was scrapped after the death of its occupant; the other name on the title refused to have anything to do with the home.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to cancel the remaining tax, penalty, and interest in the amount of \$500.46 for Robert L. Miller, Parcel No. MH0816E245898D. It was seconded and carried with ayes.

(3) Ekren-Kober stated another mobile home had been moved from the County some time before October of 2017.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to cancel the remaining tax, penalty, and interest in the amount of \$142.02 for Jaime Bravo because the County cannot locate him or his trailer. It was seconded and carried with ayes.

(4) Ekren-Kober told the Board she had been unable to locate personal property or the business that owed back taxes for both the personal and real property. She said the property is not at its former location and that the company using it had dissolved. She had spoken with the person who had leased the property to the company in question (who was also owed money) and had attempted to talk with the company's attorney.

Much discussion ensued of how the County might collect the large sum of money owed it.

➤ It was determined the Commissioners would consult their legal counsel, and the matter was continued until March 25.

RON YATES—ACQUISITION OF A STAGE COACH

Ron Yates as well as Sergio and Julie Arroyo were present.

Ron Yates addressed the Board about a Perrine stagecoach for sale. He gave each Commissioner a book he had written about the stagecoach and showed pictures of the restored coach.

Attorney Mike Seib and Treasurer Tevian Ekren-Kober were present.

Yates said the coach was for sale in Massachusetts for \$80,000.

Payroll Clerk Charry Cushman was present.

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Yates believed residents would be happy to donate toward the purchase of the coach if there were a plan for its use. He felt it would be exciting to be able to operate the coach locally, in such locations as the county fair or museum. Yates added that the stagecoach was set for auction in 2019.

➤ The deputy clerk took the phone number for Yates, pending further consideration by the Board.

MIKE SEIB-LEGAL COUNSEL

Attorney Mike Seib was present.

Development of an Ordinance Prohibiting Water and Manure on Roadways: Present were Sergio and Julie Arroyo. Mike Seib reminded the Board that a previous Board had changed allowing illegal water and manure on roadways to an infraction, punishable with a fine, because of the difficulty of prosecuting an ordinance governing the illegal substances.

Discussion was held with the Arroyos about excessive water and manure on roadways.

➤ The Board advised the Arroyos to call 911 about sightings.

Tax Cancellation, Continued: Treasurer Tevian Ekren-Kober was present. She questioned how she could take to court a business that does not exist. Mike Seib advised to find the owner of the former business and that taxes survive everything. Since the business in question was an LLC, Seib advised that Ekren-Kober research the owner with the Secretary of State, and the matter was continued until March 25.

Hiring Procedure: Payroll Clerk Charry Cushman was present. Seib advised on the length of time to advertise an open position in answer to the Commissioners' inquiry.

The Board signed an Employee Wage Change form for Stephanie Aslett as an emergency management coordinator under the purview of the sheriff's office, effective March 25, 2019.

❖ **Executive Session:** 4:22 P.M. - A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to go into executive session per Idaho Code Section 74-206(1)(b), personnel. It was seconded and carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

4:42 P.M. - Return to open session.

No action was taken regarding the executive session.

READ AND APPROVE MINUTES

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to approve the minutes of March 11 as read. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

INDIGENT MATTERS

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to follow staff recommendations for indigent matters. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes. Approved was Case No. 1718-092. Denied was Case No. 1819-036.

Meeting adjourned at 5 P.M.

Respectively submitted:

Jane White, Deputy Clerk

Charles M. Howell, Chairman

A. Ben Crouch, Vice Chairman

John Crozier, Commissioner