

JEROME COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Monday, March 30, 2020

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

Meeting convened at 9 A.M.

Commissioner Howell was not present as he had quarantined himself because of the coronavirus.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Howell was present by speakerphone.

Commissioner Crozier reported he had followed information about the spread of the coronavirus the previous week. He had also driven through the County to check on some projects and complaints. He said many of the signs in the Snake River Canyons Park had bullet holes.

Commissioner Crouch said the Jerome cemetery board and the Local Emergency Planning Committee meetings had been cancelled but that he had listened to calls from Governor Brad Little and the Public Health District about the coronavirus.

Commissioner Crouch had also driven on the 700 East Road and did not notice heavy traffic. He added that volunteers had cleaned up trash blown from Crossroads Point.

Commissioner Howell expressed appreciation for the cleanup and Commissioner Crouch's following up with a neighbor's complaint.

Commissioner Howell reported from a speed limit complaint from a resident south of Jerome. He said the highway district had sent the resident a letter informing him that he could fill out a form requesting a reduced speed limit but that he would be responsible for paying for a traffic study for the highway board directors to consider.

Commissioner Howell had participated in a board meeting of the Southern Idaho Regional Solid Waste District by telephone. He stated directors had extensive discussion on whether to reduce services but had determined it was essential to keep the transfer stations uniformly serving the public. They recommended employees limit person-to-person contact and handling cash.

Commissioner Howell reported that SIRCOMM (emergency communications) dispatchers were nearly fully staffed and that the agency would probably not increase its fees to participating counties in the next fiscal year.

Commissioner Howell said he had answered many phone calls and followed social media about the coronavirus.

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BUSINESS AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Board signed a leave request for Mario Umana.

APPROVE TIME RECORDS

The Board approved time records for Cody Cantrell, Brent Culbertson, Deserae Jones, and Mario Umana for the March 15, 2020, through March 28, 2020, pay period.

CODY CANTRELL—VETERANS REPORT

Veterans Service Officer Cody Cantrell was present by speakerphone.

Veterans Services: Cody Cantrell reported from his written recap of veteran services that he had provided from February 24, 2020, to March 30, 2020. It included 29 office visits and a meeting with the local representative of the Idaho Division of Veterans Services.

Board of Community Guardians: As coordinator of the Tri-county Board of Community Guardians, Cantrell said he was postponing the creation of a seven member volunteer board until after the outbreak of the coronavirus.

NANCY MARSHALL—PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

Planning and Zoning Administrator Nancy Marshall was present. Commissioner Howell was present by speakerphone.

Greenwell Correspondence: Nancy Marshall had presented a draft letter to Morris Greenwell following his March 16 questions to the Board about obtaining a building permit to build an additional house.

The Board signed the letter to Greenwell, which explained why he could not build further on property he had divided and advised him of the possibility of a boundary line adjustment and/or a land division.

Future Planning & Zoning Commission Meetings: Marshall suggested suspending Planning & Zoning Commission meetings through June 1 because of the Governor's recommendation to limit meetings to fewer than ten persons.

The Commissioners discussed the June 1 date with Marshall, and they all agreed to suspend the P&Z meetings through May 1, with a review in April of whether to extend the suspension longer. Marshall said she had spoken with the chairman of the P&Z Commission, who was open to the possibility of the Commission meeting twice a month (rather than monthly) once the spread of the coronavirus is no longer a concern.

➤ Marshall said she would send a letter to the P&Z Commission members advising them of the suspension of meetings and the possibility of meeting twice a month to address a backlog of development permits.

Pre-Development Meetings: Marshall told the Board her office was considering not holding pre-development meetings temporarily. She explained the meetings bring together all parties

involved in permitting a development and expressed that, even though it would be more laborious, the parties could review the minutes of each agency.

➤ Commissioner Howell suggested Marshall obtain prices for videoconferencing capability. Marshall expressed that videoing would also help long-distance developers and might possibly work for hearings.

PEST ABATEMENT DISTRICT DECISION

Commissioner Howell was present by speakerphone.

Commissioner Howell stated the Twin Falls Pest Abatement District has sprayed the north side of the Snake River for black flies and at one time treated Wilson Lake for mosquitoes.

➤ The Board determined that Commissioner Howell would phone Rob Grant [director of the Valley Recreation District] about spraying at Wilson Lake and that Commissioner Crouch would ask the pest abatement district about a quote for treatments in Jerome County.

➤ The Commissioners also determined that the County airports manager should contract for spraying weeds at the Jerome Airport.

MIKE SEIB—LEGAL COUNSEL

The Commissioners deemed it was not necessary to meet with their legal counsel.

READ AND APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner Howell was present by speakerphone and requested some additions to the March 16 minutes.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to approve the minutes of March 16 with noted clarification and amendments. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

Further explanation of Morris Greenwell's request recorded on Page 8 was added:

“Greenwell had been granted a split of 99 acres bare ground and six acres with an existing house under zoning regulations before 2005, where the 99 acres were unbuildable (which he sold) and only one house was allowed on the six acres (which he owned). He was requesting to split the six acres to build another house, which is not allowed under the current zoning ordinance.”

The third paragraph on Page 9 under “Tim Larson—Airports Report,” was amended to add: *“The generator had not been working because it had been disconnected during the demolition of the former terminal.”*

The Commissioners also agreed to add to the minutes under Tim Larson:

➤ *The Board asked that Larson obtain chemical testing on tanks at the Jerome Airport in anticipation of eliminating the tanks.*

INDIGENT MATTERS

Commissioner Howell was present by speakerphone.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to approve indigent matters as approved by staff. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes. Denied were Case Nos. 1920-030; 1920-041; 1920-031; 1920-037; 1920-040; and 1920-035.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 A.M.

Respectively submitted:

Jane White, Deputy Clerk

Charles M. Howell, Chairman

A. Ben Crouch, Vice Chairman

John Crozier, Commissioner