

JEROME COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Monday, May 6, 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 had attended an Idaho Association of Counties (IAC) conference on budgeting and a District IV elected officials meeting including a legislative review and a speaker from the Idaho Tax Commission. He had also heard a complaint about the noise from a concert in the fairgrounds arena.

Commissioner Crouch had also attended the IAC and District IV meetings.

Commissioner Howell was present at the IAC conference and had given interviews on local radio and television stations.

OPIOID LAWSUIT

The Board determined to discuss an opioid lawsuit against manufacturers and distributors of opioids with its legal counsel later in the day.

BOARD OF HEALTH NOMINATION

The Commissioners declined to nominate a physician to serve on the Board of Health.

BUSINESS AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Commissioner Howell signed three Catering Permit forms for the South Hills Bar & Grill, Hansen, to be used May 11, 2019, from 1 P.M.-1 A.M.; May 18, 2019, from 1 P.M.-12:30 A.M.; and May 31, 2019, from 2 P.M.-1 A.M., all at the Risk Barn.

The Board signed Employee Wage Change forms for Norlyn Patheal as full-time seasonal help at the fairgrounds; Denice Carrillo as a newly hired planning clerk; and Shawn Denham as an appraiser.

The Board signed a Direct Deposit Detail with a grand total of \$126,578.66 and a Payroll Claims Approval by Fund with a grand total of \$295,088.28, both for the April 14, 2019, through April 27, 2019, payroll period.

The Board signed a leave request for Deserae Jones.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Howell told the Board that the chairman of the fair board had not received any complaints about concert noise over the weekend but had received a complaint that morning.

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STEVE HINES

University of Idaho Extension Educator Steve Hines was present.

Steve Hines elaborated on his written report of extension office activities in April. As department head, he reported he had participated in seven meetings, made two presentations, and prepped and put in two forage studies.

Hines also spoke of efforts made by Family and Consumer Sciences Educator Gretchen Manker. She had continued with diabetes education and 4-H activities as well as served as a mentor at the Jerome Middle School with a focus on leadership and career exploration. He said Manker and Community Nutrition Advisor Celia Villacana had participated in a Valley School Wellness Night attended by 160 students and families.

Hines said Villacana had given a six-week class to elementary students and had offered nutrition and crockpot classes.

4-H Coordinator Tina Miller had conducted a joint meeting with the Leaders Council and the Sale Committee to discuss animal weights and market sales.

Commissioner Howell asked Hines to give some details on the Café project from the University of Idaho, which is establishing a research dairy and offices in the Magic Valley.

KEN ROBINETTE—COMMUNITY ACTION BUDGET REQUEST

Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson was present. Also present was Ken Robinette, executive director of the South Central Community Action Partnership.

Report: Ken Robinette presented written reports showing major 2018 Community Action program services in eight local counties and statistics of dollars invested in Jerome County. He said his agency proportions food to 11 food pantries.

Robinette reported the self-help housing program is doing well and that the board of directors is seeking to build more houses in Jerome.

Request: Robinette stated the County's support is very valuable to continued service and requested that Jerome County again donate \$2,000 from its next budget.

TERRY RUBY—QUARTERLY WEED REPORT AND BUDGET REQUEST

Tri-county Noxious Weed District Supervisor Terry Ruby and Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson were present. Also present was State Veterans Administration Officer Robert Smith.

Report: Terry Ruby updated the Board on the weed district including Jerome, Lincoln, and Gooding Counties. He reported he had received verification of funding from both the Idaho State Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Land Management and was working with Union Pacific Railroad to spray its right-of-ways.

Ruby said he had revamped the district's vehicle replacement schedule and that he was in his office in Gooding on Wednesdays and in the field other days.

Budget Request: Ruby presented a budget worksheet from the District's board meeting. It requested \$70,607.33 from each county's FY 2019-20 budget, which was not an increase from the current budget year.

GARY TAYLOR—GUN RANGE FOR SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff George Oppedyk, Deputy Sheriffs Gary Taylor and Chad Kingsland, Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson, and Building Official Sharde McMillan were present. Also present were Don Zuck and Jerry Holton.

Gun Range: Deputy Taylor followed up from Commissioner Howell's report on April 29 of establishing a gun range for the sheriff's department at the County transfer station site. He asked that the Commissioners waive the fee for a Special Use Permit.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to waive the Special Use Permit application fee in the amount of \$300 on behalf of the Jerome County Sheriff's Department. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

Sharde McMillan said it was necessary to submit a permit application 30 days before a public hearing with the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Jail Discussion: Deputy Taylor said his office had met with architects designing an additional two pods to the County jail and said he would send a request for qualifications to the Commissioners.

Base Jumpers: Deputy Taylor recommended adopting an ordinance prohibiting base jumpers from jumping off the Perrine Bridge after dark because of the danger and rescue difficulty. Commissioner Howell suggested billing any person who needed to be rescued and said he would send an e-mail to the chairman of the Twin Falls County Commissioners to ascertain that board's interest in mirroring a Jerome County ordinance.

➤ It was determined the Commissioners would consult their legal counsel about regulating after-dark jumping from the bridge.

Fairgrounds Noise: In answer to Commissioner Howell's question, Deputy Taylor said the sheriff's department had received a complaint over the weekend about noise emitting from the fairgrounds; Deputy Kingsland said the sheriff's department enforces an 8 P.M. time to stop the music.

DESERAE JONES—PROBATION OFFICER VACANCY

Misdemeanor Probation Administrator Deserae Jones was present.

Deserae Jones asked about advertising for an open probation officer position. Commissioner Howell said she could advertise both in house and outside at the same time but could not hire before the in house deadline.

BUSINESS AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS, Continued

Assessor Rick Haberman was present.

Rick Haberman reported his office needed a new printer and that he would like to take advantage of a current sale.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to approve the assessor's office request to purchase a new printer for approximately \$625. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

Meeting recessed at 12:01 P.M.

Meeting reconvened at 1:15 P.M.

REVIEW EMPLOYEE MANUAL

The Commissioners read and discussed the Employee/Supervisor Manual beginning on Page 17 with Section 2.3.4 SECURITY and reading to Section 2.3.9 GIFTS on Page 19.

DISCUSS EMPLOYEE MANUAL

Present were Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson, Payroll Clerk Charry Cushman, Assessor Rick Haberman, Building Inspector Rick Kirsch, Juvenile Probation Administrator Mario Umana, Juvenile Probation Officer Maira Torres, Juvenile Probation Secretary Camille Tracy, and Treasurer Tevian Ekren-Kober.

Sick Leave for New Employees: The Commissioners followed up from revisions requested for the Employee/Supervisor Manual on April 8 regarding sick leave. Rick Kirsch agreed with the ability of an employee to use accrued benefit time for sickness in his or her first year of employment. Rick Haberman also favored the allowance for a first-year employee.

Charry Cushman argued that an employee should have leave without pay for sickness in the first year of employment.

➤ The matter was continued for further discussion at a later date.

Employee Holidays: Kirsch expressed that he was in favor of County offices remaining open the day after Thanksgiving and the day before Christmas for the benefit of customers. The Board determined to maintain the policy of an employee using accrued paid time off or comp time if he or she desires not to work those days.

Merit Raises: This matter was not discussed.

TIM LARSON—AIRPORTS REPORT

Airports Manager Tim Larson and Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson were present. Also present were Mark Doerr, Precision Aviation; Ralph Kincheloe, Airport Advisory Board member; and Larry Hall, Jerome 20/20 executive director.

Report: Tim Larson reported the fuel hose and nozzle still had not arrived.

Thomas Helicopter Lease: The Board had determined on April 29 to sign a proposed lease with Thomas Helicopter for a pit at the Jerome Airport.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to sign the airport lease agreement with Thomas Helicopter. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

Demolition Bids: Larson did not have an official bid for demolishing a metal building at the Jerome Airport, but he said Scarrow Excavation had told him it would cost between \$10,000-\$12,000 without removing the cement on which the building sits.

Ralph Kincheloe offered to form a crew to take down the metal building and another building scheduled for demolition, which he said would take two or three weeks if there were no asbestos in the buildings. He also suggested taking down the green storage building and building a new shop.

Mark Doerr agreed with razing the green building, saying doing so would provide more parking area and would improve the aesthetics of the Airport; he added that volunteers could raze the buildings within a few days. He offered to rent storage space to the County for equipment.

Fly-In Date: Larson recommended changing the Fly-In date for the Jerome Airport to July 20 but said the airport advisory board members would discuss the date at their meeting that week.

CONNIE STOPHER AND ALEXA WILHELM—SOUTHERN IDAHO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE AND BUDGET REQUEST

Present were Connie Stopher, executive director of Southern Idaho Economic Development (SIED), and Alexa Wilhelm, coordinator for Rural Economic Development Services (REDS).

Update: Connie Stopher said that Alexa Wilhelm had planned business visits in rural areas of the County. The Board favored remitting \$2,500 in addition to the yearly donation it makes to SIED for Wilhelm to serve rural communities. Making a motion was continued until May 13.

Stopher said the Podcast from her agency had been read in 20 countries in addition to 1300 hits in the United States. She also spoke of a direct business targeting campaign.

Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson was present.

Budget Request: Stopher requested a continuing donation of \$9,900 from the FY 2019-20 budget.

Wilhelm asked for recommendations of persons to contact, to which the Board suggested a few names.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

❖ 3:07 P.M. - A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell 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.

3:21 P.M. - Return to open session.

No action was taken regarding the executive session.

TONY LOPEZ—VICTORY HOME UPDATE AND BUDGET REQUEST

Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson was present. Also present was Tony Lopez, director of Victory Home.

Update: Tony Lopez told of the services and programs offered by Victory Home. He said his organization has purchased missions in Twin Falls and Burley and would like to establish a satellite center in Jerome.

Lopez explained the Home programs as (1) a shelter home for seven nights, (2) a 30-day guest with a case manager while pursuing employment, and (3) a one-year inpatient program teaching skills in the employment field. He said the agency raises money through the sale of banana bread and donations to a work crew.

Request: Lopez reported a good success rate in rehabilitating individuals and said he relies on donations in order to operate. He stated the agency is in need of a van and requested an increased donation of \$1,500 from the next budget.

JASON WETHERN—UPDATE AND BUDGET REQUEST FOR EDEN/HAZELTON AMERICAN LEGION

Present were Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson, Attorney Mike Seib, and Jason Wethern, representing American Legion Post #82 in Eden.

Update: Jason Wethern informed the Board of services and projects of American Legion members in the Eden/Hazelton area. He said the Post helps homeless veterans, provides information or cash assistance in some instances, puts crosses on veterans' graves at Memorial Day, helps with the local Fourth of July celebration, and sends an officer to Boise once a year to learn of veteran programs.

Budget Request: Wethern requested that the Commissioners budget \$2,000 again in the FY 2019-20 budget. He said the Legion building needs a new roof, for which the Post had saved \$3,500.

MIKE SEIB—LEGAL COUNSEL

Attorney Mike Seib was present.

Board of Equalization Form: This matter was continued until May 13 because of the unavailability of Assessor Rick Haberman.

Opioid Lawsuit: Mike Seib advised the Commissioners about filing a lawsuit against manufacturers regarding the overuse of addictive drugs. He questioned whether the County would owe attorneys or recover costs to the County.

- Commissioner Howell said he would follow up on the matter.

Base Jumpers: Seib said he would research establishing an ordinance regarding base jumping. He stated that the Search and Rescue organization could recover costs from a party it rescued.

Volunteer Labor: The Board questioned Seib about allowing volunteers at the Jerome Airport. He said they would need to sign a General Release of Liability form available in the Employee/Supervisor Manual.

Jail Construction: Seib said he would verify that the County could hire a construction manager to build an addition to the jail, who would seek bids for construction.

READ AND APPROVE MINUTES

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to approve the minutes of April 29 as corrected. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes. The date of the budget hearing for the South Central Public Health District was corrected to May 15 on Page 5.

INDIGENT MATTERS

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to approve indigent matters as presented by staff. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes. Approved were Case Nos. M019-004 and 1819-075. Denied were Case Nos. 1819-085; 1819-082; 1819-076; 1819-081; and 1819-080; dismissed was Case No. 1819-010.

Meeting adjourned at 4:46 P.M.

Respectively submitted:

Charles M. Howell, Chairman

Jane White, Deputy Clerk

A. Ben Crouch, Vice Chairman

John Crozier, Commissioner

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