

JEROME COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Monday, June 29, 2020

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

Meeting convened at 9 A.M.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson was present.

Commissioner Crozier reported he had referred a resident to the director of the regional solid waste district because the resident was concerned about rockchucks at the Jerome Transfer Station.

Commissioner Crozier had participated in a conference call with the board of the Crisis Center in Twin Falls, where directors had discussed applying for Medicaid more in order to maintain sustainability.

Commissioner Crozier, as well as the other two Commissioners, had attended a District IV elected officials meeting and had listened to a conference call from Governor Brad Little concerning the spread of the coronavirus.

Commissioner Crouch reported he had authorized an expenditure of \$1753 to repair the main water line at the Jerome Airport. He had also received a customer complaint about the Airport fuel credit card machine, which he said had broken over the weekend. Commissioner Crouch had also served as a delegate to the State Republican Convention.

Commissioner Howell informed the Board he had delivered a copy of the Snake River Canyons Park Master Plan and a Gun Range Shooting Proposal to Linda Culver, representing US Representative Mike Simpson's office, in order to renew the County's request for a conveyance of Bureau of Land Management land to the County.

Commissioner Howell had also attended a big trucks show in Hazelton and a Food Fair at Wilson Lake, which he said was well attended. He said he had spoken with Rob Grant, director of the Valley Recreation District, and thanked him for the District's work. He had also attended a retirement recognition for Janie Myers, who had worked as a Jerome County appraiser for nearly 29 years.

APPROVE JAIL CLAIM

Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson was present.

The Board had signed a claim on June 22 for the County jail expansion project and desired to pass a motion to that effect.

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❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to approve a claim to Starr Corporation for \$129,345.35. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

ROTARY FUNDING DECISION

Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson was present.

Commissioner Howell told the Board the Rotary Club had purchased some slurry to take paint off rocks at Yingst Grade and would appreciate some help with funding.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to allow up to \$500 from the Park budget for graffiti removal at Yingst Grade by the Rotary Club, reimbursed upon receipt of a bill. It was seconded, followed by discussion that the Board commended the Rotary Club, and carried with unanimous ayes.

BUSINESS AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson was present.

The Board signed Retail Alcoholic Beverage Licenses to Candilee Winkler dba Winks Highway 25 Bar and Grill, Eden; Walmart, Inc., dba Walmart #2831, Jerome; CNC, LLC, dba Si! Senior Taqueria, Jerome; and Armando Barraggan dba Tacos Azteca, Jerome.

The Board signed a Direct Deposit Detail with a grand total of \$133,969.74 and a Payroll Claims Approval by Fund with a grand total of \$316,811.51, both dated June 23, 2020, for the June 7, 2020, through June 20, payroll cycle.

The Board signed a leave request for Mario Umana.

CODY CANTRELL—REPORTS

Veterans Service Officer Cody Cantrell and Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson were present.

Veterans Report: Cody Cantrell submitted a written report of his services from May 26, 2020, to June 29, 2020, which included 24 office and two home visits as well as attendance at a Veterans of Foreign Wars meeting. He explained to the Commissioners some of the items on his report.

Board of Community Guardians Report: Cantrell reported he had met for an unofficial meeting with the four persons who had volunteered to serve on the Board of Community Guardians. He said Kasey Kliegl, Fifth District guardianship monitoring coordinator, had met with the group with information about forming the board.

Cantrell explained that he needed three more volunteers in order to establish an official board. Commissioner Crouch said he would run a notice asking for volunteers in the *North Side Journal* again; Commissioner Howell said he would speak with the Gooding County Commissioners

about advertising for volunteers in the Hagerman newspaper; and Commissioner Crozier said he would endeavor to recruit some Lincoln County volunteers.

STEVE HINES—EXTENSION OFFICE BUDGET REQUEST

Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson and Extension Office Educator and Manager Steve Hines were present.

Steve Hines requested three percent wage increases for employees in his office for FY 2020-21 other than extension educators, who are hired by the University of Idaho. He said he had filed satisfactory annual employee evaluations with the payroll clerk.

Hines requested \$200 more to cover the cost of an upgraded copy machine. He explained that his office would be purchasing vehicle tires with funds from the current budget so he could reduce the “vehicles-repairs” line to the 2019 fiscal year amount.

Hines said he had left other budget lines for the county agent the same as in the FY 2019-20 budget.

HEALTH DISTRICT UPDATE ON THE CORONAVIRUS

Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson, Emergency Management Director Tanya Stitt, and Emergency Management Coordinator Kirsten Howard were present. Present by speakerphone were City of Jerome Administrator Mike Williams; Jerome Mayor Dave Davis; and Linda Montgomery, Josh Jensen, and Melody Bowyer representing the South Central Public Health District.

As director of the local health district, Melody Bowyer referred to statistics she had e-mailed to the Commissioners and City officials that morning. She said a Jerome graph showed the number of new cases of the coronavirus had been trending down, but she warned that residents remain vigilant with physical distancing and hand washing.

Bowyer stated the report showed that hospital patient capacity was sufficient even though the number of cases was increasing. She informed that the Health District had met with an Hispanic organization that sends representatives into Mexican homes to deliver information about curbing the spread of the virus.

Mike Williams asked a question about hospital information. Josh Jensen said sometimes the Magic Valley hospital information will be included in St. Luke’s regional statistics.

Tanya Stitt said Randy Hall from the Wood River St. Luke’s hospital e-mails an update on coronavirus hospitalizations in his facility every Friday.

Commissioner Howell stated Governor Little had stressed that shutting down cities was to be determined jointly by both State and City officials.

Bowyer said city mayors would need to keep in touch with their county commissioners.

DISCUSS STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS

The Board discussed information they wished to include in a State of the County address they would be giving to the Jerome Chamber of Commerce on July 8.

LARRY HALL—SIGN SNAKE RIVER CANYONS PARKING LOT AGREEMENT

Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson was present. Also present was Jerome 20/20 Executive Director Larry Hall.

Larry Hall presented a letter from Idaho State Parks & Recreation approving a grant for the Snake River Canyons Park and a form to sign to accept the funds. He said the \$57,000 grant would require a \$15,000 County match.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to authorize the chair to sign the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Grant Agreement Form for a grant of \$42,000 for a parking area in the Snake River Canyons Park. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

Hall informed the Board of an event sponsored by Jerome 20/20 to honor first responders planned for July 2 in a Jerome city park.

Meeting recessed at 11:45 A.M.

Meeting reconvened at 1:15 P.M.

TONY LOPEZ—UPDATE AND BUDGET REQUEST FOR VICTORY HOMES

Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson was present. Also present were Tony Lopez, a boy, and Kent Atkin.

Tony Lopez, as director of Victory Home in Twin Falls, updated the Board on the addiction recovery facility. He provided a three-page Profit and Loss Budget Overview and stated Jerome County's contribution of \$1,000 in 2020 had provided half the cost necessary to purchase a passenger bus to transport clients to programs, work, and appointments. He said the facility was currently in need of remodeling in order to have a commercial kitchen.

Lopez told the Commissioners that Victory Homes operates from donations, fundraising, and its work programs. He said that its Victory Ranch raises animals for auction and butchering and provides vegetables from its garden. He added that the organization also provides a transitional living home and an apartment complex in order to integrate clients back into society.

The Commissioners asked how many people were in the program, how many were from Jerome County, and the rehabilitation success rate. Lopez answered that 65 persons were currently enrolled, with 15 of them coming from Jerome County within the previous year. He said 40 percent of persons are successful after 30 days and that 60 percent are successful after completing a complete one-year program.

Lopez said Victory Homes is growing bigger and would appreciate any finances the County could offer from the FY 2020-21 budget.

TIM LARSON—AIRPORTS REPORT

Airports Manager Tim Larson, Airports Consultant Kent Atkin [JUB Engineers], and Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson were present.

Report from Kent Atkin: The Board was in receipt of an Agreement and Authorization for Engineering Consulting Services from Century West Engineering Corporation that Kent Atkin had addressed on June 22.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to pay Century West Engineering to carry out an independent fee estimate [IFE] for airport engineering fees of \$3500. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

Atkin said estimates for the Jerome Airport runway rehabilitation and beacon replacement project would follow from both Century West and JUB Engineers.

Report: Tim Larson stated he expected to receive a new fuel credit card machine the next day to replace the one that had broken over the weekend. He said no pilot had received free fuel because of the machine failure.

Further discussion was held about sprinkler repairs, a well house door, weeds, and obtaining fuel additive.

Fuel Island Cover: No report

Apron Refurbishing: No report.

MARIO UMANA—JUVENILE PROBATION REPORT AND BUDGET REQUEST

Juvenile Probation Administrator Mario Umana and Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson were present.

Report: Mario Umana read from his monthly written report, which showed 63 juveniles on probation, eight new cases, six closed cases, and fees paid of \$1,802.57.

Budget Request for FY 2020-21: Umana requested four percent wage increases for his office clerk and a probation officer and three percent increases for the rest of the juvenile probation staff. He provided written evaluations for the two four percent requests.

Umana requested raising “B” budget lines by three percent, except for “supplies-cell phones”, “computer software”, “education-other”, “education-tt”, “lottery funds”, “JPO subject funds”, and “family subject” lines. He told of the use of some of his travel budget because some juveniles are placed in a program in northern Idaho. He also said another increase was for the use of additional ankle monitors.

JEFF SCHROEDER—UPDATES AND BUDGET REQUESTS

Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson was present. Also present was Jeff Schroeder, representing both the Jerome Food Ministry and the Interfaith Association.

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Food Ministry Update and Budget Request: Jeff Schroeder updated the Commissioners on the ministry of Martha & Mary's Food Pantry in Jerome. He said it had distributed food boxes weekly during the shutdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic but was now distributing food twice weekly from its housing facility. Schroeder stated the Pantry had served an average of 623 families per month in 2019. He presented a two-page report that included primary food sources, volunteers, and statistics regarding food insecurity. He said the Community Kitchen has not resumed its weekly meal.

Schroeder requested that the County again fund the Food Ministry \$4,000 from its FY 2020-21 budget. He added that the Pantry had begun providing food for the homebound and that it has outgrown its facility.

Interfaith Association Update and Budget Request: Schroeder presented a letter from the chairman of the Jerome Interfaith Association detailing its mission and its participating churches. He said the Association meets a person's immediate needs and cooperates with other social service agencies to meet needs beyond what any one organization can do. He informed that requests for temporary housing have increased and that the Association also helps with domestic violence problems.

Schroeder requested that the County increase its donation to the Interfaith Association from \$2500 to \$4000 from the FY 2020-21 budget.

KELLI SAVAGE —GOLD STAR MEMORIAL PRESENTATION

Kelli Savage was present via a Zoom meeting.

Kellie Savage followed up from information the Commissioners had received in March about the establishment of a memorial in Pocatello to honor Gold Star Families, who had lost loved ones from military action. She said each Idaho county would be represented by a star and that a county could sponsor a star with a donation of \$1500, which would be noted on a sponsorship stone.

Savage said the County could follow the monument's progress on its Website and that she was looking forward to hearing whether Jerome County would like to make a donation.

- A decision was later added to the Commissioners' July 20 agenda.

STAN BOLICH AND RON POSTON—UPDATE AND BUDGET REQUEST FOR JEROME AMERICAN LEGION

Stan Bolich, commander of the Jerome American Legion post, and Ron Poston were present.

Update and Budget Request: Stan Bolich told the Commissioners the sidewalk at the American Legion building in Jerome was in need of replacing. He brought estimates from Farmore of Idaho to remove the old cement and CD Custom Backhoe to replace it, together totaling \$9,482.

Ron Poston said the Legion post needed \$12,000 for its building fund.

➤ The Board asked Bolich to return if the Legion would need funding for the sidewalk in the current budget year, possibly from the County contingency fund. The Commissioners were to decide in their subsequent budget workshops whether to fund the Legion \$6500 again for FY 2020-21.

GENE BROWN—UPDATE AND BUDGET REQUEST FOR EDEN/HAZELTON AMERICAN LEGION

Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson was present. Also present was Gene Brown, representing the Eden/Hazelton American Legion post.

Update: Gene Brown reported that veterans had not yet been able to replace the roof on the American Legion building in Eden with the \$4500 contribution from the County in 2020. He said they did spend \$600 to repair the building's furnace and that their next project after a new roof was a new furnace for approximately \$15,000. He told the Board the post had hosted a Mardi Gras fundraiser in the spring and was planning a community event on July 17.

Budget Request: Brown requested that the County again donate \$4500 to the legion post in 2021 and said that the veterans greatly appreciate the County help.

ROY PRESCOTT—UPDATE AND BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE NORTH SIDE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson was present. Also present was Roy Prescott, representing the North Side Soil and Water Conservation District.

Update: Roy Prescott presented two pages of information about the operations and projects of the North Side Soil and Water Conservation District. He reported the District was becoming more involved in communities and had reinstated its program of giving away trees. He told the Board of a major effort in agriculture to reduce tillage and eliminate fertilizer.

Prescott explained that the Jerome office part-time secretary would be working out of the Twin Falls Conservation office.

Request: Prescott requested that the County again donate \$12,000 to the District from its FY 2020-21 budget.

MIKE SEIB—LEGAL COUNSEL

Attorney Mike Seib and Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson were present.

Sign Memorandum Decision (recorded): The Board was in receipt of a decision written by its legal counsel following an indigent appeal hearing on June 15. The Commissioners agreed that the written decision agreed with its determination to uphold the denial of an indigent application.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to approve the Memorandum Decision for Case No. 1819-132. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

Mike Seib discussed with the Commissioners Idaho county prosecutors' opinions of the legality of using federal CARES Act funds for property tax rebates. He said each county would determine whether to accept the funds.

READ AND APPROVE MINUTES

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to approve the minutes of June 15 as read. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

INDIGENT MATTERS

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to follow staff recommendations for indigent matters. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes. Approved were Case Nos. 1920-060; 1920-040; 1819-129; 1819-061 (amended); and 1819-071 (amended). Denied was Case No. 1920-057; dismissed was Case No. 1920-011.

Meeting recessed at 4:50 P.M.

Respectively submitted:

Charles M. Howell, Chairman

Jane White, Deputy Clerk

A. Ben Crouch, Vice Chairman

John Crozier, Commissioner