

JEROME COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Monday, July 1, 2019

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

Meeting convened at 9:04 A.M.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Crouch had attended a Census 2020 meeting to encourage community leaders to disseminate information about the upcoming census.

Commissioners Crouch and Howell had participated in the Jerome Freedom Fest.

Commissioner Howell reported from a Southern Idaho Regional Solid Waste District board meeting that the District had overcome glitches in the gas-to-energy project and that it was running as predicted. He had met several times with the SIRCOMM (emergency communications) board as it had dealt with changing to a different computer aided dispatch (CAD) system.

Commissioner Howell had also met with the Jerome 20/20 executive director and a developer who is willing to invest in Jerome County.

NANCY MARSHALL—PLANNING AND ZONING APPOINTMENT

Planning and Zoning Administrator Nancy Marshall was present.

Nancy Marshall told the Board that Arlen Morgan had volunteered to serve as the planning and zoning representative on the Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to appoint Arlen Morgan from the Planning and Zoning Commission to the Middle Snake Regional Water Resource Commission and to reimburse him \$.58 a mile. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

SIGN LETTER TO THE IDAHO SUPREME COURT

The Board followed up on information from district court representatives on June 24 by signing a letter requesting that the Idaho Supreme Court assesses the Judicial Annex Building for compliance with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to sign a letter to the Idaho Supreme Court requesting that the Judicial Annex Building be assessed for ADA compliance. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

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SIGN LETTER FOR FAIR BOOTH PURCHASE

Following investigation about purchasing a booth at the fairgrounds, the Board composed a letter to the Lions Club offering to purchase its booth at the Jerome County rodeo grounds.

➤ Commissioner Howell was to follow up with Lisa Haney about the Club's willingness to complete the transaction.

JAIL INSPECTION

Commissioner Howell agreed to perform the Commissioners' quarterly jail inspection in July.

BUSINESS AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Commissioner Howell said he and the chairman of the Fair Board had both investigated a complaint about noise from the Fairgrounds, and Commissioner Crouch offered some suggestions.

The Board signed a Retail Alcoholic Beverage License to the Diamondz Event Center, LLC, dba Diamondz Bar & Grill, Jerome.

The Board signed two leave requests for Brent Culbertson.

The Board signed a Direct Deposit Detail with a grand total of \$118,791.79 and a Payroll Claims Approval by Fund with a grand total of \$312,102.22, both dated June 25, 2019, for the June 9, 2019, through June 22, 2019, payroll period.

Commissioner Howell signed Catering Permits to the South Hills Bar & Grill, LLC, Hansen, to be used July 6, 2019, from 4 P.M.-1 A.M. and July 20, 2019, from 3 P.M.-1 A.M., both at The Risk Barn.

STEVE HINES—EXTENSION OFFICE REPORT

Extension Educator Steve Hines, Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson, and Chief Deputy Clerk Tracee McKim were present.

Budget Presentation: Steve Hines requested only one change other than salary increases in the FY 2019-20 budget for the University of Idaho Extension Office. He presented a quote from Les Schwab for new tires for his two office vehicles, which would increase the Vehicles-Repairs line from \$750 to \$2,250.

Hines asked to increase the secretary salary by three percent and the 4-H program assistant wage by six or six and one-half percent because the employee had completed her master's degree.

Report: Hines reviewed his written report of employee activities during June. As county chair and extension educator, he had conducted field trial work on several projects and had answered questions from phone calls and farm visits. He had also served as range officer for the 4-H State small-bore competition, attended a county chair training and a committee meeting in Caldwell, and had conducted an archery activity for 4-H camp.

Hines reported Extension Educator Gretchen Manker had continued teaching a diabetes prevention program to City of Jerome employees, chaperoned 4-H members at the State Teen Association Conference in Moscow, and had provided a series of cooking classes to elementary students.

Hines told the Board that Community Nutrition Advisor Celia Villacana had presented nutrition lessons to elementary school students as well as their parents, continued to recruit participants and provide nutrition and crock pot classes at Martha & Mary's Food Pantry, and had attended staff training.

Hines informed the Commissioners that Tina Miller, as 4-H coordinator, had hosted the State Shooting Sports Contest with over 100 youth participating and was preparing for the County Fair in August.

LARRY HALL—JEROME 20/20 UPDATE

Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson and Chief Deputy Clerk Tracee McKim were present. Also present were Jerome 20/20 Executive Director Larry Hall and Board Chairman Joseph Davidson.

Update: Larry Hall informed the Board of a facility planned by the University of Idaho to be located at Crossroads Point Business Center in 2020.

Commissioner Howell asked if the Urban Renewal Agency desired to add another Urban Renewal District. Hall said the current District has not been fully utilized.

Hall presented a list of five grants for which he had applied. Only one had been funded—new bathrooms at Wilson Lake with a match of \$10,000 from the County. He said he was meeting with a grant specialist about the proposed projects during the next week and would be resubmitting grants in January.

As the chairman of the Shoshone Falls Overlook Project Team, Hall gave the Commissioners a sheet of steps to establish an overlook in the County. He said he would meet with a team of interested parties the next week to review the estimates for the project under various scenarios.

Budget Request: Hall presented a letter from the Jerome 20/20 Economic Development Organization expressing appreciation for the \$40,000 yearly donation from the County since the organization's inception. It included a list of some of the group's efforts over the past year.

MICHELLE EMERSON—CLERK MATTERS

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

District Court Equipment Purchase: Michelle Emerson told the Board of equipment needed for the judicial system.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to provide additional funding for a laptop, television monitor, brackets, and an additional cost for cameras at the Judicial Annex Building for a total of not more than \$5,000. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

Public Defense Commission Grant: Emerson reported that she had spoken with the executive director of the Public Defense Commission regarding a grant application the County had submitted. The Commission required more information about proposed remodeling of the former County jail for public defender offices. She said the County needed to submit another application within 30 days.

➤ It was determined Emerson would request an architectural quote in order to have more information for the grant application.

Review and Discuss Budget Requests:

Commissioners: The Commissioners requested seven percent increases in their salaries and \$250 more per month for the chairman of the Board in the FY 2019-20 budget. It was also proposed to increase their Other Miscellaneous Expenses line because 69 percent of the amount allotted for FY 2018-19 had been expended as of May 6.

General Fund: Consideration of budget lines in the General Fund, including agency donations, was continued until a budget workshop scheduled for July 9.

DONNA GRAYBILL—VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE

Chief Deputy Clerk Tracee McKim was present. Also present were Donna Graybill and Jessica Kaschmitter, representing Voices Against Violence.

Update: Donna Graybill, as executive director, told the Commissioners the history of Voices Against Violence and said the agency had recently made organizational and structural changes. She then showed the Commissioners a PowerPoint presentation about the organization with 18 employees and contracts with seven counselors to serve anyone in six local counties who has been harmed by another human. She said services free of charge include emergency shelter, supportive services, community outreach, a 24/7 hotline number, and a Website.

Graybill said the agency had served 1,513 persons in 2018, which was a 30 percent increase from the previous year, and she added that the organization was beginning a capital campaign for increased housing solutions. She said about 75 percent of the agency's funding is from the federal government, with grants, local agencies, and fund raising lending added necessary support.

Budget Request: Graybill stated the agency would appreciate any donation from the County's FY 2019-20 budget.

**GREG VAWSER AND AARON ZENT—ROCK CREEK FIRE DISTRICT
QUARTERLY UPDATE**

Greg Vawser and Aaron Zent were present, representing the Rock Creek Fire District.

Aaron Zent, as the new fire chief of the Rock Creek Fire District, presented the Board a bar graph and statistics of the Rock Creek Quick Response Unit that summarized the first and second quarters of 2019. He said calls to his department had increased 28 percent from the previous year and 14 percent in Jerome County.

Vawser informed the Board that beginning January 1, 2020, the District would be staffed with 24-hour coverage rather than relying on volunteers for night shifts. He said the staffing would reduce response time and that the Unit was making a difference in survival rates in rural Jerome County.

Meeting recessed at 12:02 P.M.

Meeting reconvened at 1:22 P.M. with Commissioners Crouch and Crozier present.

REVIEW EMPLOYEE & SUPERVISOR MANUAL

The Commissioners began reviewing the Employee & Supervisor Manual on Page 28 regarding County records.

1:23 P.M. - Commissioner Howell was present.

The Commissioners continued reading from the Manual up to “Automatic Termination” on Page 30.

DAN MILES—WASTE DISTRICT QUESTIONS

Dan Miles was present.

Dan Miles asked the Commissioners how \$15 million from funds generated by the Southern Idaho Solid Waste District gas-to-energy project were used.

Commissioner Howell said the funds would be used to pay for the equipment purchased for the project.

Miles said he wanted to know why the Waste District was not giving money back to the counties in its district.

Commissioner Howell gave Miles material he had received from attending a board meeting of the Waste District and said the Commissioners would find answers to questions Miles had.

TIM LARSON—AIRPORTS REPORT

Airports Manager Tim Larson was present.

Larson presented a bid from Rocky Mountain Transport & Excavation for asbestos testing and demolition of two buildings at the Jerome Airport, as had been requested by the Board on June 24 because of no word from Thorpe Demolition, which had tested for the asbestos.

He then reported that the owner of Thorpe Demolition had phoned him to apologize that he had been vacationing in Greece and had sent his report on asbestos testing to an incorrect e-mail address.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to award the demolition of the two buildings in question to Thorpe Demolition for \$8500 and to authorize him to begin as soon as possible. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

Larson told the Commissioners he had sprayed weeds at the Jerome Airport and that a resident had given a compliment on the appearance of the Airport. He added that a party had expressed interest in building another hangar at the Airport.

SERGIO AND JULIE ARROYO—CITIZEN CONCERNS

Attorney Mike Seib was present. Also present were Sergio and Julie Arroyo.

Road Abandonment: Sergio Arroyo stated the highway department had addressed his concern about a road abandonment.

Weed Eradication: Sergio Arroyo expressed concern that his neighbors would not cooperate by spraying weeds on their property. He said the County weed supervisor told him the neighbor had sprayed his weeds, but Arroyo said the killed weeds were on his property. Arroyo said the canal company had sprayed weeds along its ditch banks but that it was a waste of taxpayer dollars if one party sprays and others do not.

➤ Arroyo asked that at least one of the Commissioners come to view the property of his concern. Commissioner Crozier said he would follow up with Arroyo's complaint.

Planning and Zoning Complaints: Sergio Arroyo showed on a map where he had purchased property from his neighbor, saying he had paid for a survey. Julie Arroyo said the sheriff's department had asked their neighbor to stop farming on their property as a result of the survey. She added that their neighbor had not accomplished the land division through the planning and zoning department, and thus there was no protection for them as buyers.

Sergio Arroyo said they had made three information requests to the planning and zoning office but had received only one answer. The Arroyos said they felt threatened because of a friendship they perceived between their neighbor and planning and zoning personnel.

Julie Arroyo said they had discovered their well water was going to someone else's property and that they were forced to drill a new well in order to have sufficient domestic water.

➤ The Board said it would follow up on two of the Arroyos' complaints.

MIKE SEIB—LEGAL COUNSEL

Attorney Mike Seib was present.

Arroyos: Mike Seib advised about the complaints received from the Arroyos. He counseled to consult the weed supervisor and the planning and zoning office.

➤ Commissioner Crozier said he would follow up with the noxious weed supervisor and visit the Arroyo property.

Property Tax Exemption: This matter was continued until the next week.

LOMBARD CONRAD ARCHITECTS (LCA) AND STARR CORPORATION—JAIL ADDITION

Present were Maintenance Supervisor Brent Culbertson, Chief Deputy Clerk Tracee McKim, Sheriff George Oppedyk, Chief Deputy Gary Taylor, and Jail Administrator Marisela Ibarra. Also present were Russ Moorhead, Ken Gallegos, and Ben Bernier, all representing Lombard Conrad Architects, and Mike Arrington with the Starr Corporation.

Commissioner Howell said the County was expecting to build a 30-bed dormitory style addition to its current jail and had only \$2 million allocated for the project.

County staff members expressed changes they would like from the current jail in the addition to be designed by Lombard Conrad Architects (LCA). Changes included a digester for sewage, stainless steel linings for the showers, more convenient shut-off valves, welded down shower chairs, and a sloped landing area.

Russ Moorhead stated LCA would work with the Starr Corporation on pricing options and return to the Board.

READ AND APPROVE MINUTES

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to approve the minutes of June 24 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. 1819-054. Dismissed were Case Nos. 1819-066; 1819-045; and 1819-058.

Meeting adjourned at 4:38 P.M.

Respectively submitted:

Jane White, Deputy Clerk

Charles M. Howell, Chairman

A. Ben Crouch, Vice Chairman

John Crozier, Commissioner