

## **JEROME COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Monday, August 31, 2020

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

Meeting convened at 9:10 A.M.

### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Crozier reported from a Crisis Center meeting that its board was making progress on financial sustainability with the reduction of State funding. He said that ProActive as the Center's current manager was the only agency submitting a bid to continue its management. Commissioner Crozier had also visited the Fairgrounds and talked with Fair personnel.

Commissioner Crouch stated he had attended the garage sale for the Jerome Senior Center.

Commissioner Howell had donated to the Senior sale and reported from a Southern Idaho Regional Solid Waste board meeting that directors had signed a renewal three-year contract with Josh Bartlome as the director. He had also attended the Salmon River Stampede in Salmon. Commissioner Howell said Sergio and Julie Arroyo had lost a lawsuit against their neighbor, who was awarded all court costs.

All three Commissioners had listened to an address from Governor Little and a situation report from St. Luke's, both regarding the spread of the coronavirus.

### **APPROVE TIME RECORDS**

The Board signed Time Records for Brent Culbertson, Deserae Jones, Christine McGuire, and Mario Umana for the August 16, 2020, through August 29, 2020, pay period.

### **BUSINESS AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

The Board signed three Catering Permits to the South Hills Bar & Grill, Hansen, to be used September 5, 2020, from 3 P.M.-1 A.M.; September 12, 2020, from 1 P.M.-1 A.M.; and September 19, 2020, from 4 P.M.-1 A.M., all at the Risk Barn. The Board also signed a Catering Permit for Garibaldis, Jerome, to be used September 2, 2020, at 520 South 800 East from 1 P.M.-1 A.M.

The Board signed Employee Wage Change forms to increase the salaries of Deputy Sheriffs Chad Kingsland and Matt West because of their promotions to lieutenants.

The Board signed leave requests for Deserae Jones, Brent Culbertson (4).

### **CHRISTINE MCGUIRE—VETERANS SERVICES AND COMMUNITY GUARDIANS**

Veterans Service Officer Christine McGuire was present.

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**Veterans:** Christine McGuire expanded on a written report of her activities as the veterans service officer from August 3 to August 31. She reported she had ten office visits and had made five home visits. She had attended three meetings regarding veterans and had joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

McGuire stated she had been touching persons through a Facebook account she had set up for veteran information. She gave a shout out to Moss Greenhouse for donating four floral arrangements for the veterans service office.

**Community Guardians:** McGuire gave the Commissioners an application to serve on the Tri-county Board of Community Guardians and reported she had met with Kasey Kliegl as the Fifth Judicial District guardianship coordinator.

### **CY LOOTENS—CANVASS AUGUST 25 ELECTION RESULTS**

Deputy Clerk/Elections Specialist Cy Lootens was present.

Cy Lootens presented an Election Canvass Certification for the Commissioners' signatures for a Jerome School District supplemental levy election held on August 25, 2020. The \$800,000 levy for each of two years had passed, with 917 yes votes against 540 no votes. Lootens said no votes were recorded from Lincoln or Gooding Counties because no one from those counties lives within the boundaries of the Jerome school district.

Lootens said the 20 percent voter turnout was more than double of the most previous school election and attributed the increase to mail-in ballots.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to accept the election canvass certification as presented by staff. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

### **HEALTH DISTRICT—UPDATE ON CORONAVIRUS**

Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson was present. Present by speakerphone were Tanya Stitt, County Emergency Management Director; Brenda Gully and Linda Montgomery, South Central Public Health District; and Mike Williams, Jerome city administrator.

Brenda Gully reported 15 new coronavirus cases district-wide over the weekend, with only one new case in Jerome County. She gave statistics from long-term care facilities and said the District had done further testing in the facilities, with results pending.

Linda Montgomery gave a report from a federal government action team that was investigating the spread of the virus.

Commissioner Crouch asked for the number of deaths in care centers both district and statewide. Gully said there had been 156 deaths statewide and that she would e-mail the Commissioners further statistics.

## **MICHELLE EMERSON AND TEVIAN EKREN-KOBER—BOND DOCUMENTS**

Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson, Chief Deputy Clerk Tracee McKim, Attorney Mike Seib, and Treasurer Tevian Ekren-Kober were present.

**Bond Documents:** The Board discussed an e-mail from Christian Anderson with Zions Bank regarding amounts the County could save by putting down funds to refinance its jail bond. The Commissioners preferred contributing \$100,000, which would net a savings of \$108,830.

Tracee McKim stated the County would be eligible to make another balloon payment in ten years.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to go forward with the bond refunding, with a contribution of \$100,000 to go toward the finance costs. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

**CARES Act Funding:** The Commissioners continued their discussion of August 24 of whether to withdraw from CARES Act funding from the federal government for coronavirus relief.

Commissioner Howell stated the federal government had said that counties could accept the funding without repercussions but that it would not disseminate the information.

Mike Seib counseled that using CARES funding for anything but coronavirus expenses would be in direct violation of the CARES Act. He said counties would have to put a blind trust in both their State and Federal governments not to have repercussions from spending the funds for anything else.

Tevian Ekren-Kober said accepting the funding would change the County levies and create a nightmare of paperwork in her office.

➤ The Commissioners determined to wait for more information, and the matter was continued until September 8.

Meeting recessed at 11:42 A.M.

Meeting reconvened at 1:19 P.M.

## **DESERAE JONES—GUN PURCHASES**

Misdemeanor Probation Administrator Deserae Jones was present.

Deserae Jones followed up from August 24 by informing the Commissioners she could order three guns and ammunition but that they would not be available for two to three months.

Commissioner Crouch asked Jones to review the reasons for purchasing new guns. She said the smaller guns would make qualification easier for the probation officers, the ammunition was less expensive, and other agencies use the smaller pistols, which would make trading ammunition possible.

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❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to approve the purchase of three handguns and ammunition from the ammunition budget line item. It was seconded, followed by discussion that the total amount would not exceed \$2,000, and carried with unanimous ayes.

### **TEVIAN EKREN-KOBER—NEW COPY MACHINE AND SERVICE AGREEMENT**

Treasurer Tevian Ekren-Kober was present.

Tevian Ekren-Kober presented a lease agreement for a different copier in her office. She said her current copier had required service several times and that changing to a new company would save \$15 per month. Ekren-Kober also told the Commissioners the new copier would be faster, make colored copies, scan certain files, and allow service from Twin Falls.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to approve a copy agreement from the treasurer's office through Valley Office Systems. It was seconded and carried with Commissioner Howell abstaining.

### **TIM LARSON AND KENT ATKIN—AIRPORTS REPORT**

Airport Manager Tim Larson was present. Also present was Kent Atkin, JUB Engineers airport consultant.

**Atkin Report:** Kent Atkin advised the Commissioners that he would be submitting a capital improvement program to the Airport Advisory Board and the Federal Aviation Administration to facilitate applying for a grant to extend the Jerome Airport runway within the next few years.

Atkin also advised of the bidding process for rehabilitating the current Airport runway in 2021. Commissioner Howell told Larson that the County usually pays invoices as they are received and then receives grant reimbursements.

**Larson Report:** Tim Larson presented a revised quote from Gilbert's Pump Service to improve the water pressure at the Jerome Airport. He stated the pump service had submitted a new quote from the one approved on August 24 because it had left out an item, but he said that the quote was still lower than an estimate from another company.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to proceed with Gilbert's Pump Service with a revised estimate, not to exceed \$8,174. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

Larson said he had determined where to move the electrical rack in preparation for redesigning the Airport apron. He said the fuel island would be out of service for approximately one week during the move but that he would make arrangements with Precision Aviation to provide fuel at the Airport.

Larson reported his assistant would prefer not to work on Saturdays. He had spoken with the highway department again about clearing weeds adjacent to the Airport. Larson said he was waiting for a quote for sprinklers for the lawn. He said his assistant had been making progress on cleaning the shop and had repaired the riding mower and the old Ford tractor into running conditions.

The Commissioners complimented Larson on the improved appearance of the Jerome Airport, noting that weeds had been mowed along the fence lines and around the hangars.

➤ Commissioner Crouch asked that Larson speak with QT Pod about reimbursement from repair of the fuel terminal.

### **DECREASE IN PROPERTY TAX VALUATION**

Present was Chief Deputy Clerk Tracee McKim, Treasurer Tevian Ekren-Kober, and Assessor Rick Haberman.

Rick Haberman followed up from the Board's discussion on August 24 about a decrease in property tax valuation. He said he had met with the Idaho State Tax Commission appraiser, who had found an irregularity in a report submitted by Agropur.

Haberman stated that Agropur representatives were to speak with him and the appraiser that week to agree on a corrected line in Agropur's annual report to the appraiser's office.

➤ The matter was continued until September 8.

### **LARRY HALL—INTERPRETATION OF TEMPORARY SIGNAGE FOR CAFÉ PROJECT**

Planning and Zoning Administrator Nancy Marshall, Assistant Administrator Kacie Buhler, and Attorney Mike Seib were present. Also present were Larry Hall, Jerome 20/20 executive director; John Wright, University of Idaho CAFÉ Project; and Mike Arrington, Starr Corporation.

Larry Hall described four foot by eight foot signs that the University of Idaho Café project would like to erect at its property slated for construction of a visitor center.

Nancy Marshall had submitted excerpts from the Jerome County Zoning Ordinance that she believed would not support erecting the temporary signs.

Mike Seib interpreted the ordinance as not requiring building construction before erecting the signs.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to approve two signs as requested. It was seconded, followed by discussion, and carried with unanimous ayes, with Commissioner Crouch abstaining.

### **MIKE SEIB—LEGAL COUNSEL**

Attorney Mike Seib was present.

Mike Seib reported on an accident with a sheriff's patrol car killing a dog.

Treasurer Tevian Ekren-Kober and Payroll Clerk Charry Cushman were present.

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Seib advised about the death of a former County employee who had no family, and as such the County treasurer is the agent for his estate. He said she needed information from his employee file that only the Commissioners could release.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to allow distribution of personal information to the estate administrator from the County personnel files. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

**READ AND APPROVE MINUTES**

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to approve the minutes of June 16 and August 24 as read. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

**INDIGENT MATTERS**

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to approve indigent matters as presented by staff. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes. Approved was Case No. 1920-060 (amended). Denied was Case No. 1920-061.

Meeting adjourned at 3:49 P.M.

Respectively submitted:

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Jane White, Deputy Clerk

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Charles M. Howell, Chairman

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A. Ben Crouch, Vice Chairman

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John Crozier, Commissioner