

JEROME COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Monday, February 28, 2022

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

Meeting convened at 9 A.M.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

John: Written report.

Commissioner Crozier had attended a round table discussion and a movie, "Alternative Facts," hosted by the Friends of Minidoka regarding the relocation camp for Japanese Americans during World War II.

Commissioner Howell had consulted with architects and engineers about cost estimates for a new meeting room in the SIRCOMM (emergency communications) building.

COURTHOUSE BASEMENT EXCESS PROPERTY

The Commissioners followed up from February 14 when they offered employees items in the Courthouse basement for their offices until February 28. They determined that employees could now have the items (except for the stove, refrigerator, safe/cabinet, and exercise equipment) for their personal use if they contact the Commissioners to obtain a reasonable price.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to offer employees any items in the Courthouse basement work-out room for their personal use, except for the safe, the stove, the refrigerator, and the exercise equipment, with the cost to be determined by the Commissioners. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

APPROVE TIME RECORDS

BUSINESS AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

SIGN AND APPROVE CLAIMS

Monday, February 28, 2022

Page 1 of 7

Commissioners signed claims for the February

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to approve claims as presented. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

The Board signed a Claims Approval Report dated

JAMIE WALTER—HOMEOWNER EXEMPTION

Jamie and her husband were here. Also Tevian and Michelle.

Tevian: Gave the numbers (written).

Guy: 2015 not on there. We signed up in 2015. When our payments went up every year, and we couldn't figure out why. We refinanced and found out our payments were so high because of no homeowner exemption after 2015.

Guy: We're asking for what we shouldn't have had to pay.

Tevian: The taxing districts have already spent the money.

Ben: If overcharged, you get a refund.

Guy: It's not our fault it got changed; it should not have changed.

Michelle said there is a fund for refunds. (I KNEW THAT!)

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to refund \$. . . to . . .
Due to a clerical error in the assessor's office. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

Michelle: After the minutes are approved, a claim will be prepared for the Commissioners to sign at a regular meeting.

Commissioner Crouch called for an executive session regarding personnel.

❖ 9:50 A.M. – A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to go into executive session per Idaho Code 74-206(1)(b). It was seconded and carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

10:01 A.M. – Return to open session.

BILL BRIDGES—SNAKE RIVER CANYONS PARK UPDATE

Bill Bridges, chairman of the Snake River Canyons Managing Board; and Larry Hall, executive director of Jerome 20/20, were present.

Bill: Two new board members. Steve Paulson and Mike Zobot. Melissa Barry is going to resign because she has not shown up for seven months. Rob Morgan will be recommended at the next SRCP board meeting. The SNCPB members would recognize it if Zobot were a conflict.

RV Park: March 14, will start looking at the grants.

Bill: Broken bridge: \$300,000. The Yingst Grade right-of-way expired in July 2020.

Charlie: The right-of-way gives the County permission to do what it wants on that right-of-way. Bill will get ahold of Mike Houser at the BLM about getting the right-of-way.

Bill: The overlook, \$3 million. Need donations. Asking the County for \$250,000. Charlie said both projects are on our ARPA money. Feb. – July, no construction work because of the eagles nesting. (Bill is an ornithologist.)

Larry: Mike is a great chairman. Work on the Park is awesome. I will go to the SRCP board about help with the bridge and the grade.

Bill: The tribe would do a fireside chat in the evening?

The trail at the Hansen Bridge. (There was some problem, I think).

Bill: Two little pieces of property at the Hansen Bridge—Why? Charlie knew why, to make it a fishing pond, with a riparian tour.

Sue wants some more parking lots for horses. Make some of the trails non-motorized, but the ATV people want all the trails open for them.

Land conveyance? Ben said we want both an extended lease (25 years) and a land conveyance.

Bill: Trying to get ITD to put up signs for the Park. ITD said water and a toilet, but he saw another sign with no water and a toilet.

A bill to Jane.

HEALTH DISTRICT—CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Present were Tanya Stitt, County emergency management director and Kirsten Howard, coordinator; Linda Montgomery, Health Board; and Brenda Mason, South Central Public Health District.

CY LOOTENS—COMPUTER PURCHASE

Deputy Clerk Cy Lootens was present.

Cy: Paperwork for a school resource officer. Quote from Computer Arts for a laptop for the resource officer for Valley School.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to approve the purchase of a computer through Computer Arts for the Valley School District for the price of \$1,716.12. It was seconded, followed by discussion that the Board expects to be reimbursed by Valley School District, and carried with unanimous ayes.

10:57 A.M. – Commissioner Crozier was excused to attend a funeral.

MARIO UMANA—JUVENILE PROBATION REPORT

Juvenile Probation Officer Mario Umana was present.

Mario: new prosecutor? Peggy?

We had a probation review a few months ago. Now they want me to review another probation department on March 7, at Mini-Cassia.

Rule of 80 is gaining some momentum.

DESERAE JONES—MISDEMEANOR PROBATION REPORT

Not present. But a written report.

Meeting recessed at 11:59 A.M.

Meeting reconvened at 1:22 P.M. with Commissioners Crouch and Crozier present. Commissioner Howell was excused to attend a SIRCOMM (emergency communications) meeting.

GARY TAYLOR—LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT

Chief Deputy Sheriff Gary Taylor and Deputy Sheriff Matt West were present.

Deputy Taylor:

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to sign Between IDPR and Jerome County to provide assistance to help accomplish the State of Parks and Recreation boating safety program. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

Contract with the City of Eden: In the works for 20 years. A new mayor, same contract as with the City of Hazelton, half the amount and half the amount of patrolling. Mike has reviewed it.

Tanya was here.

Ben wants Mike to present it later this afternoon.

Gary: We may need to add another deputy in the next fiscal year.

TANYA STITT—EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Emergency Management Director Tanya Stitt was present.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to offer employees any items in the Courthouse basement work-out room for their personal use, with the exception of the safe, the stove, and the exercise equipment, with the cost to be determined by the Commissioners. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

Inventory: A motion was made to go forward, said Ben; employees come see the Commissioners for a price.

TIM LARSON—AIRPORTS REPORT

Airports Manager Tim Larson was present. Also present was Mike Dahmer.

Report: Airport sign e-mail from Mark Doerr; I guess only Charlie got it. Lytle Signs said the sign is completed and should be installed this week. Loader repair, reported on it. Need approval for an extensive repair. An additional \$3,000.

Tim: Gave the fuel pricing.

- Ben asked for a written report of fuel sales each time Tim meets with the Commissioners.

Ben asked about the progress of moving the piles of snow. Tim said he was making progress.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch the authorization to repair the loader, up to \$3,000, repairing the housing, the fuel pump, and the injector pump. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

Dump Truck Repair: Back in service.

Apron Estimates: Brent is working on the costs for all three options.

FBO Policy: Guidelines will be brought to the Airport Board.

Living Quarters: Tim said the residence was still there.

Weed Spraying: Tim gave a written estimate. Broadleaf protection would help out. \$3858.91 for a total, said Tim. \$5400 in his line item, said Tim. Ben wanted it added to spray right up to the road. Tim said it was done last year, but not with the broadleaf.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to approve the cost of \$38538.91 for weed spraying on the Jerome Airport by Thrifty Lawn and Garden. It was seconded, followed by discussion that spraying would include all the fence lines, perimeters, and next to the runway.

TRACY RAINES—VETERANS/GUARDIANS REPORT

Tracy Raines, as veterans service officer and Board of Community Guardians coordinator, was present. Also present was Mike Dahmer.

Tri-county Board of Community Guardians: Tracy: Couldn't get ahold of Will Ritter. Another phone call, no return call. No new recruitments.

Everything on hold with three additional board members.

Veterans: Quiet, letters for the circuit breaker applications.

One widow came in about her deceased husband; she is lost at the moment.

State level, veterans in the hospital; one lives in Filer, one in Gooding. Need a DD2-14.

One veteran has a scooter with something wrong with it. There is a gentleman in Jerome who works on them. The scooter was probably under warrantee.

Tracy brought his laptop so the Commissioners could see a program he has been working on.

Commissioner Howell was present.

CORONER APPLICATION INTERVIEWS

Present were Dan Chatterton and Jason Robertson, both applicants for the coroner position. Also present were Mark Swenson, chairman of the Jerome County Republican Central Committee; George Oppedyk, sheriff; Gary Taylor, chief deputy sheriff; Chad Kingsland, deputy sheriff; Betty Bennett, and Mike Dahmer.

Dan: 27 years of law enforcement experience. Investigated a lot of death questions for call-outs. A transition to full retirement. Thinks he has some beneficial skill sets. Best quality, a suspicious mind, also his worst quality.

Questions from Ben.

Questions from Charlie. Dan said coroner position would be a lot different from being a police officer. Why the job changes.

Interviewed Jason Robertson. He worked with Gerald Ostler, who was a coroner; my father owned a funeral home. Also dealt with Gerald Brant. He had a good relationship with the coroner in Ada County.

Jason: Be careful of situations and be sensitive. He has a mortician's license but runs an assistant living residence. He's been a deputy coroner for Gerald. He is familiar with a computer registration system, unlike Dan.

Questions from Ben.

Questions from Charlie. He has the advantage of a doctor in his household.

Mark: Reminded both candidates that the coroner position is up for election this cycle. Declaration of candidacy starts today through March 11.

Discussion: Ben said there were two really good candidates. One didn't show up. Great depth of experience with both candidates. He liked Dan's letters of recommendation. Liked Dan's law enforcement experience. Voting for Dan.

Charlie: Appreciated Dan's forthright answers. Jason was softer. Got recommended by the Ostlers and a good recommendation from the Ada County coroner. Voting for Jason.

John: Liked Dan's experience with law enforcement. Professional in appearance. Bedside manner is important. Jason is experienced with computers. Liked both connections with the community. Jason has probably higher availability. Conflicts with funeral conflicts, but Robertson said no.

John: Wants Mr. Robertson.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to appoint Jason Robertson to fulfill Gerald Brant's term as coroner, effective March 1. It was seconded, followed by discussion for both candidates to apply to run for office. It carried with Commissioners Howell and Crozier voting aye and Commissioner Crouch voting nay.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to amend the agenda to swear in the newly appointed coroner. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

SWEARING IN OF NEW CORONER

Commissioner Crouch administered the oath of office to Jason Robertson, who also signed the oath.

READ AND APPROVE MINUTES

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to approve the minutes of January 31, February 7, and February 14 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. M022-002. Denied was Case No. 2122-024; dismissed were Case Nos. 2021-067 and 2122-016.

Meeting adjourned at 4:32 P.M.