

JEROME COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Special Meeting

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

Meeting convened at 1:15 P.M.

JAIL DISCUSSION

Present were Deputy Clerk Cy Lootens, Sheriff George Oppedyk, Jail Administrator Marisela Ibarra, and Treasurer Tevian Ekren-Kober. Also present were Ben Bernier, Lombard Conrad Architects; and Michael Arrington and Jeff Russell (project superintendent), both Starr Corporation.

Michael Arrington provided an itemized guaranteed maximum price (GMP) for the Jerome County jail addition. He addressed two add alternates included for doors previously discussed with the Commissioners. He said the grinder desired by the County was not included in the guaranteed price and would cost between \$60,000-\$70,000.

The Board discussed with the sheriff the need for the grinder, and Marisela Ibarra recommended that the County reconsider its need until after completing the jail addition, to which the Commissioners agreed.

Arrington said Starr Corporation could credit the County for beds not needed because of beds it has in storage, which those present determined would be worth about \$16,000.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to authorize Starr Construction to proceed with the Jerome County sheriff jail addition, not to exceed \$1,651,526, which is the guaranteed maximum price. It was seconded, followed by discussion that the Board appreciated Starr Corporation staying under the County's desired budget, and carried with unanimous ayes.

➤ It was determined the Commissioners would attend a groundbreaking ceremony on May 4 at 9 A.M.

UPDATES ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

The Board briefly discussed Governor Brad Little's plan announced that morning for reopening the Idaho economy while reducing the spread of COVID-19 and preserving healthcare capacity.

TELEPHONE CALL FROM GOVERNOR BRAD LITTLE

Present were Sheriff George Oppedyk, Jail Administrator Marisela Ibarra, Treasurer Tevian Ekren-Kober, Payroll Clerk Charry Cushman, and Appraiser Tracy Perkins.

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Page 1 of 3

Governor Little stated he had merged Idaho's plan for reopening its economy with guidance from President Trump. He predicted the economy would be 98-99 percent open by the end of June. He invited State officials to answer questions that county commissioners statewide had previously submitted.

Jani Revier, director of the Idaho Department of Labor, said the State had a \$100,000 cap for Unemployment Insurance. She reported 6,700 persons had filed and that payments would begin that week.

Governor Little stated the State advisory committee was recommending how to spend funds received from the federal Cares Act for direct expenses incurred after March 1 because of the coronavirus.

Dave Jeppesen, director of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, said the State had created a new Website with criteria to follow to rebound the economy in four stages. He added that social distancing and following the stay-home order had helped in decreasing the spread of the virus.

Brad Richey, director of the Idaho Office of Emergency Management, stated the supply chain for critical health supplies continues to be challenged. He said a detailed contamination system is expected to be operational by May 4.

Governor Little said rebound.idaho.gov gives a solid roadmap for opening the economy, which he said was predicated on the number of virus cases decreasing.

Bobbi-Jo Meuleman, director of intergovernmental affairs, commented on coronavirus testing, which she said is increasing.

It was reported Blaine County is researching three different antibody-testing methods that would need to be approved by the FDA (Federal Drug Administration) but that would not tell if a person is contagious.

Governor Little said he favored maintaining statewide reopenings, rather than a regional approach as requested by some counties, because of infringements of infection.

The Governor urged businesses struggling to apply for loans under the Payroll Protection Program to notify the State or Senator Risch's office. He advised activities for rodeos and county fairs to be different and to minimize dense public concentrations. He said activities would not be normal again until treatment or a vaccine for the coronavirus is available.

Sam Eaton, policy director for the Governor, said State campgrounds are closed but that the State parks, as well as most boat ramps, were open. He said it is hopeful that schools will be open in the fall. He added that churches, but not restaurants, would be open in Phase One of rebounding the economy because the freedom of religion is Constitutional.

Sheriff Oppedyk, Deputy Ibarra, and Ekren-Kober were excused.

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Page 2 of 3

In answer to a question about opening courthouses on May 1, Governor Little said they had not been required to close.

Eaton said Stage 2 of the rebound policy would ask that individuals coming into Idaho from another State self-quarantine for 14 days.

Governor Little stated it would jeopardize individuals statewide and not be fair to businesses if counties do not follow the Idaho Rebounds plan.

The Governor was scheduled to address county commissioners again on April 30.

NOTE: The Governor's office subsequently changed the next address to April 29, but legal counsel for the Jerome County commissioners advised that the meeting would not be an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners because they would not be holding a discussion or making decisions.

DECISION—ADDITIONAL PAVING AT THE HAZELTON AIRPORT

The Commissioners considered whether to add additional paving at the Hazelton Airport to the asphalt planned by pilot Mike Jurak. Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson had advised the Hazelton Airport budget allowed for such an expenditure.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to authorize expenditure of \$4500 for additional paving at the Hazelton Airport. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 P.M.

Respectively submitted:

Charles M. Howell, Chairman

Jane White, Deputy Clerk

A. Ben Crouch, Vice Chairman

John Crozier, Commissioner