

**JEROME COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Wednesday, May 6, 2020

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

Meeting convened at 1:30 P.M.

**SOUTH CENTRAL HEALTH DISTRICT BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Present was Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson. Present virtually were employees of the South Central Health District and a quorum of the eight-member Board of Health, consisting of one representative from each of the eight counties in the District.

As chairman of the health board and Jerome County's representative, Linda Montgomery chaired the meeting.

Melody Bowyer, District director, presented a proposed budget for FY 2020-21. Those in attendance referred to 13 pages of information that had been supplied by the District. Bowyer requested that each County contribute one percent more in the next fiscal year than in the current budget year, saying that the District could then balance its budget by using \$190,000 of its reserve funds.

The Blaine County representative asked how COVID-19 expenses would affect the budget. Bowyer replied that many of the expenses would be reimbursable from federal and state aid.

Cassia County Commissioner Leonard Beck asked how the increased funding would be used and how much the District held in reserves. Bowyer said capital outlay would cover parking lot repaving, new office furniture, and vehicle purchases. She said the total reserve fund was \$1.6 million. Montgomery noted that reimbursement funding would replenish the reserve fund.

Twin Falls Commissioner Don Hall said his board of commissioners did not agree with any increase from the Health District. The Blaine County representative, as well as the three Jerome County commissioners, agreed with Commissioner Hall.

Financial Officer Jeremy St Clair addressed the requested budget increase. He said the State of Idaho required a two percent increase in employee salaries but that the District anticipated not hiring any additional staff.

An attendee questioned if the State recommendation was made before changes implemented because of the coronavirus.

A Cassia County representative asked about replacing vehicles. St Clair answered that District vehicles are replaced at 70,000 miles on a rotation basis. He said replaced vehicles are sold at

auction and that the proceeds usually pay to replace one car. He added that upgrading furniture with modular fixtures is an ongoing project.

Bowyer said the District planned to replace four vehicles in the next fiscal year. She noted that employees travel through all weather conditions and that their safety is the District's concern.

Montgomery asked District employees to report on their programs.

Logan Hudson, family and children's health division administrator, gave an update on the coronavirus. He said a goal is to increase testing capacity and that the District is hiring additional staff to do contact tracing. He gave statistics on the number of cases increasing as the economy opens.

Minidoka County Commissioner Sheryl Koyle expressed strong disappointment with the Health District's response to the coronavirus. She cited examples of Blaine County and its airport not being closed.

Susie Beem, community health division director, reported on the WIC (Women/Infants/Children) program, which has transitioned from paper checks to e-cards. She said client appointments were being held remotely.

Craig Paul, environmental health/preparedness division director, stated the Health District promotes clean air, water, and food and focuses on food and child care safety. He said the District would implement a minor increase in septic tank fees effective July 1 and that it had been a number of years since it the fees had been changed.

Hudson addressed tuberculosis, immunizations, high-risk groups, and vaccines.

The meeting with the Health District employees closed.

Michelle Emerson expressed budget concerns; she said the County had experienced a loss of revenue in the previous two months.

➤ The Board continued its meeting until May 7 so it could address a timely matter regarding the Southern Idaho Economic Development REDS (Rural Economic Development Services) program.

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

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