

JEROME COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Monday, August 23, 2021

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

Meeting convened at 9:04 A.M.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Crozier reported he and Commissioner Crouch had listened to a phone call from Governor Little addressing the COVID epidemic as well as State budgeting, wildfires, and drought areas. The two Commissioners had also attended a fundraiser where the Jerome High School football team played against First Responders.

Commissioners Crozier and Crouch, as well as Emergency Management Director Tanya Stitt, had inspected the tower site on Highway 93 that is owned by the County and utilized by ham radio operators. Commissioner Crozier stated they were able to access the building there and that it was in good condition except for a very strong rodent odor. He also said the grounds were in better than average condition.

Commissioner Crozier said he had counseled a citizen who wanted to put a speed bump on the highway in front of his house that he should first check with the sheriff department and the highway district. He said he had other various discussions with citizens throughout the week but that most were of little consequence.

Commissioner Crouch said he had driven through the Snake River Canyons Park and questioned whether some vagrants were living there.

Commissioner Howell reported concern was expressed in an Adaptive Recovery meeting about the number of increased coronavirus cases and hospital staffing vacancies. He said hospital information given included that 95 percent of coronavirus patients were not vaccinated.

Reporting from a SIRCOMM (emergency communications) meeting, Commissioner Howell said a radio antenna on Skeleton Butte would be functioning that week. He said board directors were still considering how to retain staff, with three positions currently open. He stated the board would hold an emergency meeting that week to address hiring a new manager to fill a vacancy expected on December 31.

Commissioner Howell also reported he had attended the Gooding County Rodeo and had spoken with the manager about general operations and functioning of the rodeo.

Monday, August 23, 2021

Page 1 of 8

SURPLUS PROPERTY

The Commissioners were made aware of a citizen who was interested in obtaining the basketball hoop left over from the prisoner exercise yard at the Courthouse.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to declare the old basketball backboard from the prisoner recreation yard as surplus property and of no value. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

The Commissioners agreed that the interested party could have the basketball hoop free of charge and suggested that he might want to make a donation to a non-profit organization.

SIGN MIGLIURI & RODRIGUEZ AND HILVERDA McCRAE CONTRACTS

The Commissioners were in receipt of contracts for public defense from both law firms of Migliuri & Rodriguez and Hilverda McCrae, as determined on July 27 after meeting with Migliuri & Rodriguez and Rockne Lammers. The effective date of the contracts was October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2023.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to sign contracts for public defensive attorneys Migliuri & Rodriguez and Hilverda McCrae. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

The Hilverda McCrae contract was mailed to the law office for signature.

TAX EXEMPTION DECISION LETTER FOR AGROPUR

The Board determined to write a letter to Agropur detailing its July 26, 2021, decision to grant tax exemptions for five years.

READ AND APPROVE MINUTES

➤ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to approve the minutes of August 16 as corrected. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes. The motion on Page 6 under “Kent Atkin—Jerome Airport Master Plan” was corrected to read, “A Motion was made by Commissioner *Crouch* to sign a contract with JUB Engineers to update the Jerome Airport Master Plan, contingent upon FAA funding and legal review.”

INDIGENT MATTERS

➤ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to follow staff recommendations for indigent matters. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes. Dismissed was Case No. 2021-017.

SIGN AND APPROVE CLAIMS

The Commissioners signed claims for the August 18, 2021, to August 24, 2021, payroll cycle as follows.

#	DEPARTMENT	PAYROLL	ACCT PAY	GRAND TOTAL
1	CLERK	\$ 25,515.62	\$ 295.84	\$ 25,811.46
2	ASSESSOR	\$ 7,179.35	\$ 414.42	\$ 7,593.77
3	TREASURER	\$ 4,271.98	\$ 195.00	\$ 4,466.98
5	COMMISSIONERS	\$ 4,459.26	\$ 54.94	\$ 4,514.20
6	CORONER	\$ 419.31	\$ 866.00	\$ 1,285.31
10	BUILDING & GROUNDS	\$ 4,888.02	\$ 434.98	\$ 5,323.00
11	EMERGENCY MNGMENT	\$ 3,131.22	\$ 897.86	\$ 4,029.08
13	EXTENSION AGENT	\$ 3,734.28	\$ 322.71	\$ 4,056.99
14	DATA PROCESSING	\$ 1,276.35		\$ 1,276.35
15	ELECTIONS			\$ -
18	GENERAL	\$ 12,693.88	\$ 3,148.63	\$ 15,842.51
21	PLANNING & ZONING	\$ 9,672.55	\$ 49.43	\$ 9,721.98
22	GIS	\$ 1,488.00		\$ 1,488.00
29	GENERAL FUND RESERVE			\$ -
30	VETERANS	\$ 598.43		\$ 598.43
	Sub Total {General Fund}	\$ 79,328.25	\$ 6,679.81	\$ 86,008.06
4	SHERIFF	\$ 50,041.36	\$ 14,729.78	\$ 64,771.14
5	SHERIFF-DETENTION	\$ 49,269.12	\$ 6,284.01	\$ 55,553.13
6	ADULT PROBATION	\$ 6,694.20		\$ 6,694.20
7	PROSECUTOR	\$ 19,055.06	\$ 756.16	\$ 19,811.22
8	PUBLIC DEFENDERS		\$ 7,335.25	\$ 7,335.25
9	JUVENILE PROBATION	\$ 8,406.71		\$ 8,406.71
18	GENERAL JUSTICE	\$ 25,794.33	\$ 25,684.00	\$ 51,478.33
	Sub Total {Justice Fund}	\$ 159,260.78	\$ 54,789.20	\$ 214,049.98
3	AIRPORT	\$ 3,453.30	\$ 75,429.65	\$ 78,882.95
6	DISTRICT COURT	\$ 4,471.66	161.55	\$ 4,633.21
7	FAIR	\$ 6,987.56		\$ 6,987.56
9	CAPITAL FAIR			\$ -
11	HEALTH DISTRICT			\$ -
15	ELECTION CONSOLIDATIOI	\$ 1,786.67		\$ 1,786.67
16	INDIGENT	\$ 3,367.21	\$ 11,913.25	\$ 15,280.46
20	REVALUATION	\$ 10,814.56	\$ 2,490.00	\$ 13,304.56
23	SOLID WASTE			\$ -
24	TORT			\$ -
27	WEED			\$ -
29	AMBULANCE			\$ -
38	WATERWAYS BOARD			\$ -
38	WATERWAYS SHERIFF		\$ 200.88	\$ 200.88
41	BOND REDEMPTION			\$ 200.88
	GRAND TOTAL	\$ 269,469.99	\$ 151,664.34	\$ 421,134.33

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

The Board signed a Claims Approval Report dated August 20, 2021, for the Indigent Fund, with a grand total of \$11,913.25.

The Board signed a Claims Approval Report dated August 20, 2021, with a grand total of \$141,101.09 for the following funds: General, Airport, District Court II, Justice, Revaluation, Waterways, and Planning & Zoning/Building.

BUSINESS AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Board signed a Payroll Claims Approval By Fund with a grand total of \$312,929.66 and a Direct Deposit Detail with a grand total of \$150,610.04, both dated August 17, 2021, for the August 1, 2021, through August 14, 2021, payroll period.

The Board signed a leave request for Brent Culbertson.

CHRISTINE McGUIRE—VETERANS AND GUARDIANS REPORTS

Christine McGuire, as veterans service officer and coordinator for the Board of Community Guardians, was present. Also present was Linda Montgomery.

Veterans Service Officer: Christine McGuire read from her office written report covering July 26 through August 22. She said she had been ill the previous week but had still held 25 office visits and answered 58 phone calls during the reporting period, leaving 35 calls to return that day. She had also made one home visit.

McGuire told the Board she had attended meetings of the Northside Interagency, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and the VFW Auxiliary as well as had provided 13 assistances with other service organizations.

Commissioners Crouch and Crozier visited the room McGuire and volunteers had furnished in the Courthouse for veterans to use.

Board of Community Guardians Coordinator: McGuire reported the tri-county guardian program had received one new Ward; four Guardianship applications had been declined; two applications were in the vetting process, and two applications were pending evaluations and court dates. She said she had attended one court hearing regarding a Guardian application and had made two care facility visits regarding Guardians.

HEALTH DISTRICT—CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson was present. Also present was Linda Montgomery, as chairman of the Health Board. Present by speakerphone were Tanya Stitt, County emergency management director; and Brenda Mason, South Central Public Health District.

Brenda Mason stated the number of reported coronavirus cases from August 1, 2021, to August 20, 2021, was 218, compared to 129 during the same period in 2020. She said most hospital capacity is in the high or critical risk category.

Commissioner Crouch asked about the percentage of cases that are tested for variances, but Mason said each testing facility would have that information.

Linda Montgomery asked if the Health District would adopt the risk categories used by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Mason said the District would maintain its categories.

Those present by speakerphone were excused.

Montgomery expressed that it was confusing when the seven health districts around the State use different risk categories.

Montgomery reported the South Central Public Health Board had reorganized and that she was again elected chairman, with all Board members present and voting.

Montgomery told the Board that the College of Southern Idaho had approved the Health District building a storage shed on its campus, but she said construction had not begun pending exploration of three other options.

Montgomery said the Health District needs employees. She also informed the Board that the annual Legislative Reception would be held on November 4 at 12 P.M. at the Caddy Shack.

MARIO UMANA—JUVENILE PROBATION REPORT

Juvenile Probation Administrator Mario Umana was present.

Mario Umana provided his office statistics from July 25, 2021, through August 22, 2021, which included 69 juveniles on probation or diversion and \$4,061.49 collected in fees.

Umana reported he and his staff would be participating in a webinar from the Idaho Juvenile Justice Association since it had good feedback last year. He said he was part of a subcommittee regarding juvenile diversion because Jerome County has more juveniles diverted from the court system than other Idaho counties.

Commissioner Howell asked about the success rate of diversion, and Umana said recidivism is decreased. He said success is achieved if the probation department and the prosecutor cooperate.

Umana reported one of his staff was quarantined because of contact with a coronavirus patient.

➤ Umana invited the Commissioners to attend an Open House on September 24 for the new juvenile detention center at the County West facility in Twin Falls. He said a safe house, treatment center, and offices would also be included at the location.

Meeting recessed at 11:35 A.M.
Meeting reconvened at 1:16 P.M.

BRAD RICHY—IDAHO OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Present was County Emergency Management Director Tanya Stitt. Also present were Brad Richy, director of the Idaho Office of Emergency Management; and Heidi Novich, area field officer.

Brad Richy first complimented Tanya Stitt for doing a great job of coordinating with his office. He then told of an October preparedness conference scheduled in Boise in which a cyber awareness group would speak.

Richy said the State Office would provide \$1 billion for increasing resiliency and buy-down risk in the coming year. He asked how well his office had responded to the County's needs for COVID relief and said to express any future concerns to Tanya Stitt.

Commissioner Howell asked if grant funds could be used to expand a city sewer system; Richy affirmed they could and told of some eligible projects.

TIM LARSON—AIRPORTS REPORTS

Airports Manager Tim Larson was present.

Tim Larson reported the Airport Advisory Board would discuss Mark Doerr's concerns about FBO (fixed business operation) standards at the Jerome Airport. He said the Federal Aviation Administration would pay 100 percent of the cost of updating the Master Plan.

Larson reported on the current fuel prices at the Jerome Airport. He said a 72-to-96-hour notice is required to order fuel and that the last load of Jet A took almost a week to arrive because of driver shortage. Commissioner Howell questioned whether he should order larger amounts because of the delays.

Larson said he was expecting to hear from the highway department to arrange digging a trench at the Jerome Airport. He said he had been waiting since July for bids to gravel a new parking lot at the Airport, explaining that gravel would be laid first, topped with millings removed from the Airport runway.

Larson invited all three Commissioners to attend the Airport Advisory Board meeting on September 7 when Airport Consultant Kent Atkin would be present to "kick off" his company's updating the Jerome Airport Master Plan.

❖ 2:12 P.M. – A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to go into executive session per Idaho Code 74-206(1)(b), personnel. It was seconded and carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

2:50 P.M. – Return to open session.

MICHELLE EMERSON—CLERK VEHICLE

Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson and Attorney Mike Seib were present.

Michelle Emerson said her office has been using the vehicle that misdemeanor probation no longer needed and that she would like to dispose of the 1991 Lincoln her clerks have been using because it has been requiring some repairs.

Mike Seib counseled that County property worth more than \$250 would need to be auctioned and that there were websites for auctioning government property.

The Commissioners agreed that they would like to repurpose the vehicle as a courtesy car at the Jerome Airport.

➤ Emerson stated she would arrange to have the car repaired and detailed before transferring it.

MIKE SEIB—LEGAL COUNSEL

Attorney Mike Seib and Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson were present.

Law Library Contract: Michelle Emerson said the County has been paying Westlaw for the public to have access to a law library but that Idaho Code does not require providing the access.

Mike Seib advised not to pay Westlaw for access to the laws because they were available on the Internet.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell not to renew the patron access contract through Westlaw. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

➤ Emerson said she would notify Westlaw that the County will not renew its contract.

Memorandum Decision for Standlee S Railway Zone Change: Planning and Zoning Administrator Nancy Marshall was present. She gave the Board a Memorandum Decision written by legal counsel and reviewed by her office to rezone Standlee S Railway property from A1 Agricultural to CC Commercial Corridor, as determined by the Commissioners after a public hearing on July 19, 2021.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to approve the Memorandum Decision for Standlee S Railway to rezone to a commercial corridor. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

Jerome Airport Bylaws: Seib provided bylaws for the Airport Advisory Board to review.

Annex Sealcoating: Commissioner Crouch provided a proposal for sealcoating and striping the Judicial Annex Building parking lot. Emerson said the funds could be taken from the FY 2020-21 budget.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to use J&D Seal Coating to do asphalt repairs and sealcoating of \$11,856 at the Judicial Annex Building. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 P.M.

Respectively submitted:

Jane White, Deputy Clerk

A. Ben Crouch, Chairman

John Crozier, Commissioner

Charles M. Howell, Commissioner