

JEROME COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Monday, September 13, 2021

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

Meeting convened at 9 A.M.

Commissioner Howell was not present, due to a medical appointment.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Crozier reported from meetings and events he had attended the previous week.

(1) **Fair Board.** Directors reviewed the Fair and Rodeo held in August and noted that attendance and sales were increased in all areas. He said the concerts were not profitable but were not a liability.

(2) **Jerome Chamber of Commerce Luncheon.** Anne Sharp of the Court Appointed Special Advocates described the Advocates program and encouraged more participation.

(3) **Lava Ridge Wind Project.** The Bureau of Land Management held a scoping meeting for cooperating agencies to solicit public input and to explain the Environmental Impact Study (EIS). An outline of factors to be considered was given as well as specific possible impacts the project could have on its area. Many more meetings would follow.

(4) **Tri-county Board of Community Guardians.** Two potential candidates were discussed and approved. Recruitment to the Board was also addressed and promoted.

(5) **Community Schools Strategic Partnership.** Members reflected on their recent "Ready for School" event where over 250 families were served.

(6) **Speaker of the House Scott Bedke.** Representative Bedke spoke to local Chamber members, Commissioners Crozier and Crouch, and legislators about COVID-19, HB 389 and its effects, and whether the Legislature should meet this fall. He stated that it costs the State \$37,000 each day the Legislature meets and that the State will soon have a \$1.4 billion surplus.

(7) **Historical Society.** New Jerome Schools Superintendent Pat Charlton was the guest speaker.

(8) **Jerome Highway District.** Board members discussed a proposed subdivision as well as several issues facing the District in terms of water drainage, chipping equipment, and signs.

(9) **Patriot's Day Observation.** The Crouch family and volunteers helped reflect on the terrorist attack on the United States at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Commissioner Crouch, Representative Laurie Lickley, and House Speaker Scott Bedke spoke, followed by musical numbers and lunch served to first responders from both Jerome and Twin Falls Counties.

Commissioner Crouch had attended an Airport Advisory Board meeting where JUB Engineers had advised members about the process of the firm's updating the Jerome Airport Master Plan. He had also conducted a Jerome Chamber of Commerce meeting about upcoming events and the results of the recent Golf Scramble fundraiser.

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Commissioner Crouch said he had learned at a Region IV Economic Development meeting of a grant received by the City of Jerome to build a new tennis court. He had also given two radio interviews.

The Commissioner reports were continued until Commissioner Howell would be present.

SCHOOL TOUR

Commissioner Crozier agreed to be present on September 15 to speak briefly with third grade students about the Commissioners' role in County government.

10:08 A.M. – Commissioner Howell was present.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS, Continued

Commissioner Howell said he had also attended the Airport Board meeting. He stated that the Snake River Canyons Park Managing Board did not have a quorum in order to meet but had considered a list of upcoming projects. He said the Commissioners needed to discuss the Park's budget.

Commissioner Howell thanked Commissioner Crouch for all his efforts in organizing the Patriot Day observance.

APPROVE TIME RECORDS

The Board signed Time Records for Brent Culbertson, Deserae Jones, Christine McGuire, Nancy Marshall, and Mario Umana.

INDIGENT MATTERS

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to follow staff recommendations for indigent matters. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes. Denied were Case Nos. 2021-057; 2021-048; 2021-039; and 2021-040.

BUSINESS AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Board signed an Employee Wage Change form to hire Trey Treasure as a deputy sheriff.

The Board signed a Claims Approval Report dated September 8, 2021, for the Insurance Deductible Trust Fund, with a grand total of \$664.34.

The Board signed a leave request for Mario Umana.

SIGN AND APPROVE CLAIMS

Commissioners signed claims for the September 8, 2021, to September 13, 2021, claim cycle as follows.

#	DEPARTMENT	PAYROLL	ACCT PAY	GRAND TOTAL
1	CLERK		\$ 316.65	\$ 316.65
2	ASSESSOR			\$ -
3	TREASURER			\$ -
5	COMMISSIONERS			\$ -
6	CORONER			\$ -
10	BUILDING/GROUNDS MAINT.		\$ 2,686.65	\$ 2,686.65
11	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT		\$ 85.05	\$ 85.05
13	EXTENSION AGENT		\$ 603.26	\$ 603.26
14	DATA PROCESSING		\$ 256.97	\$ 256.97
15	ELECTIONS			\$ -
18	GENERAL		\$ 10,304.64	\$ 10,304.64
21	PLANNING & ZONING		\$ 1,228.06	\$ 1,228.06
22	GIS			\$ -
29	GENERAL FUND RESERVE			\$ -
30	VETERANS		\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
	Sub Total (General Fund)	\$ -	\$ 15,506.28	\$ 15,506.28
4	SHERIFF	\$ 3,310.31	\$ 19,669.90	\$ 22,980.21
5	SHERIFF-DETENTION	\$ 1,406.50	\$ 2,102.16	\$ 3,508.66
6	ADULT PROBATION			\$ -
7	PROSECUTOR			\$ -
8	PUBLIC DEFENDERS		\$ 6,558.93	\$ 6,558.93
9	JUVENILE PROBATION		\$ 452.82	\$ 452.82
18	GENERAL JUSTICE	\$ 940.05	\$ 12,770.45	\$ 13,710.50
	Sub Total (Justice Fund)	\$ 5,656.86	\$ 41,554.26	\$ 47,211.12
3	AIRPORT		\$ 59,140.56	\$ 59,140.56
6	DISTRICT COURT		1732.2	\$ 1,732.20
7	FAIR			\$ -
9	CAPITAL FAIR			\$ -
11	HEALTH DISTRICT		\$ 11,103.60	\$ 11,103.60
15	ELECTION CONSOLIDATION			\$ -
16	INDIGENT		\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,300.00
20	REVALUATION			\$ -
23	SOLID WASTE			\$ -
24	TORT			\$ -
27	WEED			\$ -
29	AMBULANCE			\$ -
38	WATERWAYS BOARD			\$ -
38	WATERWAYS SHERIFF			\$ -
41	BOND REDEMPTION			\$ -
	GRAND TOTALS	\$ 5,656.86	\$ 131,336.90	\$ 136,993.76

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❖ 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 September 10, 2021, for the Indigent Fund, with a grand total of \$2,300.

The Board signed a Claims Approval Report dated September 9, 2021, for the Restitution-Courts Fund, with a grand total of \$16,148.66.

The Board signed a Claims Approval Report dated September 10, 2021, with a grand total of \$129,630.65 for the following funds: General, Airport, District Court II, Justice, and Health District.

RESOLUTION FOR THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS

The Commissioners discussed paid employee holiday time for 2021. They noted that Christmas Eve would be a paid holiday because it is a federal holiday observed on December 24, 2021, due to Christmas falling on Saturday in 2021.

➤ They determined that they would like County offices to remain open during their regular hours on December 23, 2021, and November 26, 2021, (the day after Thanksgiving).

HEALTH DEPARTMENT—CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Present by speakerphone were Tanya Stitt, County emergency management director; Toni Carver, Heritage Academy; Linda Montgomery, Health Board; and Brenda Mason, South Central Public Health District.

Brenda Mason stated the number of reported coronavirus cases in Jerome County from September 1, 2021, to September 9, 2021, had increased to 188 compared to 58 during the same period the previous year. She said there was one death during that period in the current year but none in the previous year.

Mason stated all area hospitals are over capacity; 47 percent of patients at the Magic Valley hospital have the coronavirus, with 92 percent of them not fully vaccinated. She said the percentage of fully vaccinated persons in Jerome County had increased to 43.

Commissioner Howell asked if the definition of hospital beds had changed. Mason said it had not but that the staff-to-patient ratio had decreased. He spoke with Mason about the necessity of the Department of Health and Welfare to report the same accurate information as the Health District.

Mason said the District is giving information to schools of how to keep everyone safer from the coronavirus.

Linda Montgomery asked about vaccination booster shots, rapid coronavirus tests, and hospital staff. Mason said the Health District had not received approval of the boosters, its supply of rapid tests was depleted, and that it was difficult for hospitals to stay fully staffed.

ART BROWN—RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Planning and Zoning Administrator Nancy Marshall was present in lieu of Art Brown. Also present were Scott Bybee, Devil's Corral; and Barrett Molter, Sun Valley Real Estate.

Nancy Marshall reported the Recreation Committee had completed writing a draft of a Recreation Zone, which would be Chapter 9 of the Jerome County Zoning Ordinance (JCZO). She said the Planning and Zoning Office and the County's legal counsel would now need to format the chapter as well as determine what other JCZO chapters would be affected by Chapter 9.

Marshall said because of the significant amount of progress made in drafting a Recreation Zone that public workshops on the Zone could be set as early as October.

NANCY MARSHALL—PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT

Planning and Zoning Administrator Nancy Marshall was present.

Nancy Marshall read statistics from her monthly report from the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Office, which included revenue, building department inspections and projects, code enforcement, mapping, and other department activities.

Marshall reported problems with software from Computer Arts. She said sometimes all permits are shown as closed on the P&Z office computers, but she said she agreed with Computer Arts remedying the glitch with payroll before helping her department.

Marshall said she will meet with the sheriff's office and Deputy Rick Scruggs, who will be assigned to P&Z code enforcement violations beginning October 1. She said the deputy would report to the Commissioners with her in November.

Commissioner Howell inquired whether employee wage increases would help retain her employees, and Marshall said \$16-\$18 per hour would be helpful for the lower paid positions in her office.

Meeting recessed at 11:40 A.M.

Meeting reconvened at 1:32 P.M.

JESS BURNS—EMINENT TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS

Present were Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson and Chief Deputy Clerk Tracee McKim. Also present were Jess Burns, Eminent Technical Solutions and Region IV Development Association (RIVDA); and Jake Goddard, RIVDA.

Jess Burns introduced those present to the possibilities of improving technology available in Jerome County. He said Eminent Technical Solutions (ETS), in partnership with the Region IV Development Association, offer a free technology assessment that would report what the County may need or want to improve service to County government offices, businesses, and homes.

Burns told the Commissioners his company had helped the cities of Burley and Heyburn to build out their broadband infrastructures, which was so efficient that the cities were able to offer the network to residents for \$70.

Commissioner Howell inquired about the County costs involved. Burns said there would be no cost unless the County decided to pay for an engineered plan for a network, which could cost approximately \$11,000. He explained that federal grant money was available to build a network, which ETS would build through a bid.

Burns informed that wired connection is better, but that Phase 1 would be a tower to enable wireless connection to rural points, and Phase 2 would be installing fiber connections. She said there could be multiple towers necessary to cover the County.

Burns told the Board that Burley could now get a 150 rating for a download, while Commissioner Crouch's figures showed a current 17 rating for Jerome County.

➤ It was determined Burns would send samples of reports and a survey available, and Jake Goddard would send grant opportunities to the County.

Burns and Goddard were excused.

Michelle Emerson and Tracee McKim agreed with the Board to have an assessment done regarding the County's current technology. McKim said the County already has a fiber connection to the Judicial Annex Building.

TRACEE MCKIM—WATERWAYS FUND UPDATE

Chief Deputy Clerk Tracee McKim and Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson were present.

Tracee McKim informed the Board that the Waterways Board could spend \$9,541.06 in the current fiscal year. She explained that the cash balance in both the Waterways Board and the Waterways-Sheriff Patrol budgets was \$20,817.46, of which \$6,276.40 for Waterways Patrol and \$5,000 to carry forward in the FY 2021-22 budget should be deducted from the total cash balance.

DISCUSSION—DEVIL'S CORRAL PROPERTY

Attorney Mike Seib was present. Also present were Thomas Cantrell and Matthew Kreston, both representing Concierge Auctions; Scott Bybee, representing Devil's Corral; Barrett Molter, Sun Valley Real Estate; and Linda Helms, Jerome County Historical Society.

Mike Seib counseled that the County could submit a bid online for Devil's Corral property but that it would need to have an assessment beforehand because the County cannot pay over a property's assessed valuation.

Thomas Cantrell said he was present to tell the Commissioners how the County could participate in the auction for the Devil's Corral property.

❖ 3:33 P.M. - A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to go into executive session per Idaho Code 74-206(1)(c), acquiring an interest in real property that is not owned by a public agency. It was seconded and carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

3:49 P.M. – Return to open session.

MIKE SEIB—LEGAL COUNSEL

Attorney Mike Seib, Treasurer Tevian-Ekren Kober, and Chief Deputy Treasurer Nina Lagle were present. Also present was Michael Harveston, Sawtooth Acres homeowner.

3:55 P.M. – Commissioner Howell was excused.

Emergency Management Supervisor: Mike Seib advised that State statute requires that the County hire a director of Emergency Management, who would normally be under the Board's supervision as other department heads are.

The Board noted that the emergency management director currently reports monthly to the Commissioners, while the sheriff's office signs the director's bi-weekly Time Record.

Commissioner Crouch stated the sheriff's office would prefer not to supervise the Office of Emergency Management.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to move the County Office of Emergency Management to be under the direct supervision of the County Commissioners. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

City of Hazelton Agreement for Law Enforcement: The Commissioners were in receipt of a renewal agreement between Jerome County and the sheriff of Jerome County and the City of Hazelton for the sheriff's office to provide law enforcement and police protection within the City of Hazelton, which had been reviewed by the County's legal counsel. A deputy is to work approximately 20 hours per week for an annual sum of \$45,000 paid to the County for services commencing October 1, 2021, and ending on September 30, 2022.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to sign a law enforcement agreement with the City of Hazelton. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

Grant Agreements for Project Fiber: Seib advised that he needed to make some changes to agreements with the Idaho Department of Commerce and Northbridge Junction in order to receive a grant to help Project Fiber. The matter was continued until September 20.

LID Petition: Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson was present. Seib advised about a petition the County had received from the Sawtooth Acres Homeowners Association to form a Local Improvement District (LID) per Idaho Code 50-1706. He said the County would need to verify the residency of two-thirds of the homeowners who had signed the petition approving the District, which would use tax funds collected from the homeowners to make roadway

improvements within the Sawtooth Acres Subdivision. Seib told the Commissioners that the County would be required to hold a public hearing on forming the District.

➤ It was determined that Michelle Emerson would verify with the assessor's office the residency of the homeowners who had signed the petition.

Michael Harveston stated there were 105 homeowners in the subdivision, with some undeveloped properties.

Tevian-Ekren Kober explained special charges would be placed on personal property taxes if a Local Improvement District is formed. She said the amount to charge each homeowner would be determined after the hearing was held on forming the District. She added that if taxes would become delinquent for three years, then the process for the County to acquire a tax deed would begin.

➤ Seib said the County would need to proceed in following State Code and that notices would be sent to all property owners in the subdivision of the date of a public hearing.

Accrual Rates of PTO: Clerk/Auditor/Recorder Michelle Emerson was present. Seib advised the Board could change the Employee/Supervisor Manual regarding the amount of employee Paid Time Off (PTO) as it desires.

➤ It was determined to revisit the matter on September 20.

Commissioner Howell was present.

❖ **Executive Session:** 3:58 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.

4:50 P.M. – Return to open session.

Meeting adjourned at 5 P.M.

Respectively submitted:

A. Ben Crouch, Chairman

Jane White, Deputy Clerk

John Crozier, Commissioner

Charles M. Howell, Commissioner

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