

JEROME COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Monday, September 20, 2021

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

Meeting convened at 9:02 A.M.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Crozier had learned at a South Central Community Action Partnership board meeting that the organization's finances were strong, although some departments are suffering from supply chain interruptions and staffing shortages.

Commissioner Crozier had also spoken with three groups of third graders from Jefferson Elementary School who were touring the Courthouse.

All three Commissioners, as well as Jerome 20/20 board members, had enjoyed a tour of the construction taking place for the True West Beef processing plant locating off Highway 93. Commissioner Crozier said the plant is currently scheduled for completion in the fourth quarter of 2022.

Commissioner Crozier reported he had attended an open house about the Lava Ridge Wind Farm project where he had visited with several landowners, promoters, and government officials. He said he had also attended a Jerome Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours at the Jerome County Military Museum where he had talked with several business leaders.

Commissioner Crouch was also present at the Lava Ridge Open House and Business After Hours. He had attended a Republican Central Committee meeting, where he learned that Tom Luna, chairman of the Idaho Republican Party, will speak on November 6 at Lincoln Day in Jerome.

Commissioner Howell reported that listening to an Adaptive Recovery meeting was depressing because the number of coronavirus cases was increasing and hospitals were transferring patients and cancelling surgeries.

Commissioner Howell informed the Board from a SIRCOMM (emergency communications) meeting that its board of directors had changed the hours ratio of dispatchers in order to save money on health insurance. He added that the director had indicated that he would like to continue his employment status with the agency and that law enforcement representatives would like more influence in hiring personnel.

Commissioner Howell reported from a Southern Idaho Economic Development (SIED) executive board meeting that new bylaws would eliminate the executive board. He had also visited with Governor Brad Little at the Jerome Airport about County business and status.

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SIGN UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO BUDGET AGREEMENT

This matter was continued because the budget agreement was not available.

AUTHORIZATION FOR TIME RECORDS OF SEPTEMBER 27

The Board determined to hold a meeting on Friday, September 24, in which they would approve Time Records for the September 12, 2021, through September 25, 2021, payroll period.

ADS FOR AEVs FOR JEROME RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Howell said addressing this matter was no longer necessary.

DISCUSS OPIOID LAWSUIT

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to join the opioid lawsuit as requested by Lawrence Wasden, attorney general for the State of Idaho. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

- Commissioner Crouch said he would reply to the attorney general's office.

DISCUSS BEE COMPANY LETTER

The Board was in receipt of a letter from Mountain Avenue Bees, Inc., in response to a letter from the Commissioners regarding complaints made by homeowners on July 6. The letter explained the presence of trucks on the roads in a subdivision for approximately six weeks divided between November and late January and early February. It also advised why the trucks could not change their directions when exiting the property where beehive storage units are located.

- Commissioner Crozier said he would forward the letter from the bee business to the complainants.

SIGN AND APPROVE CLAIMS

Commissioners signed claims for the September 14, 2021, to September 22, 2021, claim cycle as follows.

#	DEPARTMENT	PAYROLL	ACCT PAY	GRAND TOTAL
1	CLERK	\$ 25,307.51	\$ 15.89	\$ 25,323.40
2	ASSESSOR	\$ 7,259.85		\$ 7,259.85
3	TREASURER	\$ 5,142.67		\$ 5,142.67
5	COMMISSIONERS	\$ 4,459.26		\$ 4,459.26
6	CORONER	\$ 419.31	\$ 706.00	\$ 1,125.31
10	BUILDING/GROUNDS MAINT.	\$ 4,872.60	\$ 227.90	\$ 5,100.50
11	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$ 3,131.20	\$ 56.00	\$ 3,187.20
13	EXTENSION AGENT	\$ 3,104.30		\$ 3,104.30
14	DATA PROCESSING	\$ 1,302.40	\$ 9,746.70	\$ 11,049.10
15	ELECTIONS			\$ -
18	GENERAL	\$ 12,591.98	\$ 1,416.42	\$ 14,008.40
21	PLANNING & ZONING	\$ 8,641.26	\$ 112.10	\$ 8,753.36
22	GIS	\$ 1,488.00	\$ 1,018.00	\$ 2,506.00
29	GENERAL FUND RESERVE			\$ -
30	VETERANS	\$ 727.22		\$ 727.22
	Sub Total (General Fund)	\$ 78,447.56	\$ 13,299.01	\$ 91,746.57
4	SHERIFF	\$ 48,514.55	\$ 2,566.02	\$ 51,080.57
5	SHERIFF-DETENTION	\$ 50,996.62	\$ 3,351.42	\$ 54,348.04
6	ADULT PROBATION	\$ 6,694.20	\$ 2,112.51	\$ 8,806.71
7	PROSECUTOR	\$ 19,060.78		\$ 19,060.78
8	PUBLIC DEFENDERS			\$ -
9	JUVENILE PROBATION	\$ 8,406.72	\$ 8,174.83	\$ 16,581.55
18	GENERAL JUSTICE	\$ 25,897.70	\$ 4,999.57	\$ 30,897.27
	Sub Total (Justice Fund)	\$ 159,570.57	\$ 21,204.35	\$ 180,774.92
3	AIRPORT	\$ 3,453.30	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 5,453.30
6	DISTRICT COURT	\$ 4,885.08	1348.9	\$ 6,233.98
7	FAIR	\$ 4,404.08		\$ 4,404.08
9	CAPITAL FAIR			\$ -
11	HEALTH DISTRICT			\$ -
15	ELECTION CONSOLIDATION	\$ 1,786.67	\$ 12,892.00	\$ 14,678.67
16	INDIGENT	\$ 3,367.21		\$ 3,367.21
20	REVALUATION	\$ 10,951.04		\$ 10,951.04
23	SOLID WASTE			\$ -
24	TORT			\$ -
27	WEED			\$ -
29	AMBULANCE	\$ 550.00		\$ 550.00
38	WATERWAYS BOARD			
38	WATERWAYS SHERIFF		\$ 158.11	\$ 158.11
41	BOND REDEMPTION			
	GRAND TOTAL	\$ 267,415.51	\$ 50,902.37	\$ 318,317.88

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

The Board signed a Claims Approval Report dated September 16, 2021, for the Justice Fund, with a grand total of \$41,306.97.

The Board signed a Claims Approval Report dated September 17, 2021, with a grand total of \$49,452.37 for the following funds: General, District Court II, Justice, Election Consolidation, Ambulance, and Waterways-Sheriff Patrol.

BUSINESS AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Board signed a Direct Deposit Detail dated September 16, 2021, with a grand total of \$148,573.23 and a Payroll Claims Approval By Fund with a grand total of \$315,355.98, both for the August 29, 2021, through September 11, 2021, payroll period.

The Board signed a leave request for Brent Culbertson.

The Board signed an Employee Wage Change form to increase the salary of Veterans Service Officer/Board of Community Guardians Coordinator Christine McGuire.

The Board signed Employee Wage Change forms to increase salaries in the Prosecutor's Office for Michael Seib, Sandra Scott, Laurel McCord, Roman Thomason, Kelle Lloyd, Emely Regalado, Audrey Sims, Melanie Spencer, Juana Arteaga, and Tammy Walker.

The Board signed Employee Wage Change forms to increase salaries in the Planning and Zoning Office for Nancy Marshall, Kacie Buhler, Sharde McMillan, Richard Kirsch, Denice Carrillo, Mark Reyes, and Rick Scruggs.

The Board signed Employee Wage Change forms to increase salaries for airport employees Tim Larson and Martin Luhr.

The Board signed Employee Wage Change forms to increase salaries in the misdemeanor probation office for Deserae Jones, Andrea Gonzalez, Barbara Lloyd, and Tyler Worthington.

The Board signed Employee Wage Change forms to increase maintenance salaries for Brent Culbertson, Cindy Carnell, David Cooper, Lacey Carnell, and Jasmine Hernandez.

The Board signed Employee Wage Change forms to increase salaries of Fair personnel Tina Miller and Shawna Orgill.

The Board signed Employee Wage Change forms to increase salaries of Treasurer office employees Tevian Kober, Christina Lagle, and Taylor Perkins.

The Board signed Employee Wage Change forms to increase salaries of Commissioners Ben Crouch, John Crozier, and Charles Howell.

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The Board signed Employee Wage Change forms to increase salaries of assessor office employees Mark Swenson, Julia Garcia Rodriguez, Sabrina Henderson, Justin McMillan, Tracy Perkins, Melissa Ruvalcaba, Ryan Stout, Ana Vazquez, Tiffany Razo Chavez, Tanzy McCool, and Stacy Elmore.

The Board signed Employee Wage Change forms to increase salaries of Law Clerk William Kendell and Coroner Gerald Brant.

The Board signed Employee Wage Change forms to increase salaries of Juvenile Probation employees Mario Umana, Maira Torres, Jason Wilson, Camille Tracy, and Samantha Hite.

The Board signed Employee Wage Change forms to increase sheriff office salaries for Rick Bohling, Rachel Cotton, Colton Crockett, Craig Crouse, Michael Guest, Chad Kingsland, Chris McRoberts, Justin Mitchell, Chase Nicholson, Miguel Noriega, Austin Rasmussen, Thomas Reid, James Ridgway, Sam Roach, Rick Scruggs, Matthew Spencer, Troy Treasure, Matt West, Jason Wethern, John Wood, Gary Taylor, Letecia Beltran, Katrina Gratzner, Teresa Oneida, Kelsey Ordaz, Janet Lopez, Jonathan Almazan, Rick Bernsen, Conner Booth, Makaylee Booth, Tasha Crouse, Tyson Demaray, Austin Dixon, Roger Hartgrave, Edward Huapaya, Marisela Ibarra, Desea Lance, Darwin Lenker, Eduviges Liles, David Olson, Jeremy Osborne, Bradley Sawyer, Joel Sedlmayr, Roger Sedlmayr, Lorin Thompson, Troy Tolman, Jacob Wing, Dean Dekruyf, Eric Jackson, Cory Kehrer, and Jose Lopez.

The Board signed Employee Wage Change forms to increase salaries of Clerk's Office employees Gabriela Arteaga, Pam Bogue, Traci Brandebourg, Angela Bridge, Paola Chavez, Biridiana Gonzalez, Michelle Creek, John Lage, Melanie Mani, Sandra Peterson, Merari Ramirez, Cheryl Reeder, Charry Cushman, Tracee McKim, Jesus Mendez, Jane White, Jeri Wilson, Cyrl Lootens, Lorena Aguilar, Kim Drury, and Michelle Emerson.

The Board signed Employee Wage Change forms to increase the salaries of Emergency Management Office employees Tanya Stitt and Kirsten Howard.

MIKE TYLKA—SNAKE RIVER CANYONS PARK UPDATE

Mike Tylka, chairman of the Snake River Canyons Park Board, was present.

Update: Mike Tylka reported that the Don Zuck gazebo was approximately 90 percent primed; he said it would be erected, painted, and roofed in its location in the Snake River Canyons Park within a month. He further reported that the Park's Web and Facebook pages would both launch on October 1.

Tylka stated he had removed two signs and erected new signs regarding shooting permission because of complaints from the Country Club Estates about stray bullets. He asked about the dusk to dawn signage for Yingst Grade.

- Commissioner Crouch said he would address the matter.

Commissioner Howell complimented Tylka on the progress he and the Park Managing Board have made in providing recreational opportunities in the Park.

Tylka presented a final drawing of the 18-hole disc and foot golf course planned for the Park and told of an e-mail from the Bureau of Land Management authorizing construction of the course if avoiding an area shown on a map. He added that all the necessary equipment had been purchased to construct the golf course.

Tylka said concrete contractors needed for the golf sites were scheduled three months ahead but that Yaeger Weber had a slack period; he said he would like approval for the company to pour the concrete needed on the course.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to authorize chairman Mike Tylka to spend up to \$20,000 for installation of disc golf equipment with Yaeger-Weber Construction, not including donated time and material. It was seconded, followed by discussion that the funding would be from the FY 2021-22 budget, and carried with unanimous ayes.

Tylka further reported that Peterson Brothers Construction was grateful to help fill a hole near the Roger Morley Arbor area. He also told the Board that he had permission to pick up some railroad ties free of charge to use in the Park.

Tylka reminded the Board of Park Board member and secretary vacancies. He then presented the Board a letter of resignation as chairman of the Park Managing Board because of health reasons. He said he was willing to continue as an advisor and assistant.

➤ Commissioner Crouch said he would advertise Park Board vacancies in the *North Side Journal*.

Bank Statements: Tylka explained that Park bank statements received by the County were inactivity reports and that he had deposited one dollar to reactivate the bank account.

HEALTH DISTRICT—CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Present was Chief Deputy Clerk Tracee McKim. Present by speakerphone were Tanya Stitt, County emergency management director; Toni Carver, Heritage Academy; Mike Williams, City of Jerome administrator; Linda Montgomery, Health Board; and Brenda Mason, South Central Public Health District.

Tanya Stitt stated that since the County Commissioners were not meeting the week of September 27 that she would send them by e-mail an update from the Health District on the spread of the coronavirus.

Brenda Mason reported that the number of coronavirus cases from September 1, 2021, to September 19, 2021, was 448, compared to 119 during the same time period in the previous year; two deaths were attributed to the virus during the same period, and one last year.

Mason said all hospitals except North Canyon are over capacity, with 45 percent of hospital patients suffering from the coronavirus, 93 percent of whom were unvaccinated.

The Health District continues to meet with emergency managers and hospitals twice a week about the spread of the virus, according to Mason.

TANYA STITT—EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Emergency Management Director Tanya Stitt was present.

Tanya Stitt presented a written report from the Office of Emergency Management. She stated the tower project repeater was received and is programmed. She said all the equipment for office upgrades, as well as a vehicle, had not been received due to shipping delays.

Stitt encouraged the Commissioners to attend a Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting on September 23. She told the Board that October's preparedness fair had been cancelled due to the spread of the coronavirus. She said September was nationwide Preparedness Month and asked if the Commissioners wanted her to observe it in October. They said weekly e-mails the rest of September would be sufficient.

Stitt asked about Data Tel phone service, and it was determined she would examine and take pictures of a conference room example while she was in Meridian.

Discussion was held with Stitt about technology services at the sheriff's office. She said she had been serving as an IT liaison from Computer Arts to the sheriff's office.

➤ It was determined to allow the County IT employee to manage all technical problems at the sheriff's office.

PUBLIC HEARING—BARBER/JACOBSON ZONING MAP AMENDMENT FROM A1 TO CC (recorded)

Present were Planning and Zoning Administrator Nancy Marshall and Assistant Kacie Buhler. Also present was Chris Barber.

The deputy clerk swore in those who were to testify.

APPLICANT

Chris Barber, representing Leann and Doug Jacobson, requested a property rezone from A1 Agriculture to CC Commercial Corridor. He said the property to be rezoned was 4.36 acres located at 403 East 200 South, Jerome. He stated rezoning would be supported by the Jerome County Comprehensive Plan and that the property was located on Highway 93, which has been designed as a commercial corridor.

Barber then gave the history of the property, stating that the acreage was too small to farm and that neither the canal company nor the Historical Society want the property. He said the house on it is irreparable and not worth saving.

STAFF

Nancy Marshall stated the Planning and Zoning Commission had recommended approval of the rezoning. She said she and her staff also agree with the rezone and that the house is not on the historical register.

AGAINST

No one was present to testify against the rezoning.

The Commissioners did not have any questions, and Barber did not offer a rebuttal.

Commissioner Crouch closed the evidentiary portion of the hearing and entered into the Board's discussion.

DISCUSSION

Commissioner Howell expressed no objection to the rezoning application and agreed with the Planning and Zoning Commission recommendation for rezoning. He said he believed the application met the three staff questions asked of the Board, namely, rezoning and the uses that it provides would be consistent with surrounding uses or zoning; rezoning is in the public's interest; and rezoning is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

Commissioner Crouch agreed with the rezoning, saying the property was too small to farm and that it fits the Comprehensive Plan and is in the public's interest.

Commissioner Crozier agreed with both other Commissioners.

Commissioner Crouch recessed the hearing, awaiting a memorandum decision from legal counsel approving the zoning map amendment.

Meeting recessed at 11:47 A.M.

Meeting reconvened at 1:30 P.M.

MELISSA BARRY AND LARRY HALL—BROKEN BRIDGE PROJECT

Melissa Barry, executive director of Southern Idaho Tourism; and Larry Hall, executive director of Jerome 20/20, were present.

Larry Hall gave a history of an attempt to fund repairing a broken bridge across the Snake River for pedestrian use. He said the administrators of a grant for which he had applied required a more industrial bridge, so he was seeking local funding.

Hall said the grant would have required a \$10,000 match from Jerome County. Melissa Barry said \$196,000 now needed to be raised and asked what the County could contribute.

Commissioner Howell said he would like the County to help fund reconstruction of the bridge.

➤ Commissioner Crouch said the Board would find out during the next week how many COVID funds could be used.

TIM LARSON—AIRPORTS REPORT

Airports Manager Tim Larson was present.

Report: Tim Larson reported current fuel prices at the Jerome Airport. He told the Board he had received and stored conduits and piping for a new parking lot. He said he had also mailed invoices for hangar rental space.

Larson presented estimates from L&M Enterprises, Jerome, for repairing the Cat loader blade and for repairing the Western plow. He said two other companies had declined to quote because of their work load and staffing problems.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to approve the expenditure for the Cat loader blade repair at the Jerome Airport using the Option B estimate for \$2,882 and the quote for plow repair, Option B, for \$1,057.90, for a total of \$3,939.90, to be done by the end of September from the current year's budget. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

Commissioner Crouch said he had authorized the repair of a broken pipe at the Jerome Airport the previous week because of the urgency of its use.

Commissioner Howell asked about removing a culvert. It was determined Larson would remove two culverts, rake, and reseed the area.

Commissioner Crouch inquired about lawn mowing. Larson said a company had been mowing Jerome Airport property before his employment and that it does a quality job for \$50 a week, but he did say there is a riding lawnmower at the Airport.

Advisory Board Bylaws: Approval of new bylaws by the Airport Advisory Board was continued.

Gravel Quotes from John Slusher and/or Buzz Renn: Larson said he was still waiting for quotes from John Slusher and Buzz Renn for graveling a new parking lot.

Airport Car: The Board was in receipt of an e-mail from Clerk Michelle Emerson stating that the Lincoln vehicle in the Judicial Annex parking lot did not need any repairs and was available for delivery to the Jerome Airport, to be used as a courtesy car.

➤ Commissioner Crozier said he would notify Emerson that he would like Fairgrounds employee Eric Kranzler to inspect the car for mechanical deficiencies.

TERESA ONEIDA AND ANGIE BRIDGE—CHRISTMAS PARTY

Teresa Oneida and Angie Bridge, representatives of the Employee Committee, were present.

Teresa Oneida reported that either chicken or tri-tip dinners for the County Christmas Party at the Mountain View Barn would cost \$23 each. She asked that the County pay for the employee meals, with employees paying for a guest and for themselves in advance, with the price of the employee dinner to be refunded at the event.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crozier to fund the employee Christmas party up to \$1500. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

TRACEE McKIM—CERTIFY LEVIES

This matter was continued until a Special Meeting on September 24.

MARK TURNER—APPROVAL OF TUMBLING T FINAL PLAT AMENDMENT

Planning and Zoning Administrator Nancy Marshall and Assistant Kacie Buhler were present. Also present was Mark Turner.

Mark Turner explained to the Commissioners that he would like to combine two lots he owns in the Lazy T Ranch Estates into one lot so he could build a house across the current property line. The minor final plat amendment would replat the lots and rename the subdivision Tumbling T Ranch.

Nancy Marshall submitted her staff report and said all procedures for change had been accomplished and that the plat should be signed.

Commissioner Howell inquired about reapportionment of water shares. Marshall said the subdivision has a water share and that it monitors the diversion rate.

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to approve the application for a minor final plat amendment for Mark Turner at the Tumbling T Ranch. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes.

MIKE SEIB—LEGAL COUNSEL

Attorney Mike Seib was present.

Grant Agreements: The Board discussed with Seib proposed contracts with the Idaho Department of Commerce and Northbridge Junction in preparation for receiving grant funds.

➤ The Commissioners asked that Seib follow up with Connie Stopher, the executive director of Southern Idaho Economic Development, because she had initiated applying for a grant from the Commerce Department to help Project Fiber locate in Jerome County. The matter was continued until October 4.

Accrual Rates of PTO: A decision on making a change to the Employee/Supervisor Manual was continued until October 4.

LID Petition, Continued from September 13: Seib advised about the statute governing the formation of a Local Improvement District (LID). The matter was continued until October 4.

READ AND APPROVE MINUTES

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Howell to approve the minutes of September 7, 2021, as corrected. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes. Resolution Numbers 2021-25; 2021-26; 2021-27; and 2021-28 were changed to Resolution Numbers 2021-38; 2021-39; 2021-40; and 2021-41, respectively.

INDIGENT MATTERS

❖ A Motion was made by Commissioner Crouch to approve indigent matters as presented. It was seconded and carried with unanimous ayes. Denied were Case Nos. 2021-056 and 2021-044. Dismissed were Case Nos. 2021-029; 2021-032; and 2021-023.

Meeting recessed at 4:08 P.M., to be continued until a Special Meeting on September 24.

Respectively submitted:

Jane White, Deputy Clerk

A. Ben Crouch, Chairman

John Crozier, Commissioner

Charles M. Howell, Commissioner