

The Cassia County Board of Commissioners met this day with Chairman Dennis Crane, Paul Christensen and Clay Handy, Board Members; Alfred E. Barrus, Prosecuting Attorney; Larry Mickelsen, Clerk of the Board, and Kerry D. McMurray, County Administrator, present.

**PREVIOUS WEEKS= MINUTES**

The minutes for January 20, 2004 were discussed. A motion was made and seconded to approve and proceed with publication of an appropriate synopsis. Voting was unanimous by the Board.

**CALENDAR**

The Board reviewed the calendar for January 2004.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The Board reviewed the following:

1. The invitation to the Idaho Invasive Species Summit in Boise on February 17, 2004.
2. A letter from Cassia regional Medical Center Re: Health Care for prisoners.
3. An invitation to attend a Rally for Wildlife in Nampa.
4. Legislative Bulletin for 2004 stipulating IAC Priority Legislation.

**POLICE SERVICE CONTRACT LETTER**

County Attorney Al Barrus advised the Board concerning the letter received from the City of Burley regarding the law enforcement contract. Mr. Barrus explained the position of the County to Mayor Anderson. Sheriff Higen was asked to determine what services can be offered for the money the City of Burley wants to pay.

**CANYON VIEW MATTERS**

Kerry McMurray read a letter from Taylor Law Offices regarding the position and policies of Canyon View related to potential admittance of patients.

**IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT MATTERS**

Mr. Barrus discussed the letter to be sent to Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) regarding I-84 road closure during inclement weather. Sheriff Higen reported incidents where the interstate had been closed by the Idaho Transportation Department, but the Sheriff's department had not been notified. Sheriff Higen also stated that if the Sheriff's Department determines the road should be closed, ITD should support them and close the road. There is a definite communications problem.

The Board reviewed the letter to the ITD approving Administrative settlement on Parcel 38. It was moved and seconded to sign the letter and voting was unanimous by the Board.

The Board reviewed the Parcel 43 questions from the ITD on right of way for the City of Rocks project. Kerry McMurray will follow up with Michael Scott of ITD to clarify the need for appraisal and purchase of additional right of way pertinent to Parcel 43.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Mr. Barrus had to leave the meeting at 9:30 am to attend court. Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Schneider attended the meeting in his place.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING**

**Public Defender:** Doug Whipple discussed the December County Public Defender Clients report.

**Assessor:** Marty Holland reported the move went very well and they were grateful for the assistance received. He asked about the status of the blinds for the windows, and was told that

the quotes for purchase and installation of blinds will be reviewed, and an appropriated award extended after the Department Head Meeting. Discussed the parking around the building and how it will be developed after the snow melts.

**Sheriff=s Department:** Sheriff Jim Higen reported they have hired a dispatcher and still have an opening for a part time dispatcher. There are fewer citations now, because of the road conditions.

**Treasurer:** Gayle Erekson reported on the taxes collected to date for 2003. Collections ended on January 22, and they received more mailings of tax payments than in previous years.

**Janitorial/Maintenance:** Sharon Higgens reported that things are going well and they are ready to take care of the new County Assessor's office. Reports that snow removal contract is working very well.

**County Administrator:** Kerry McMurray reported on the Employee Benefits meeting during the previous week. A concern was raised by Tim Preston, of Financial Strategies, about a large increase in medical claims for September, 2003. He mentioned that this type of spike in claims is a matter of serious review and consideration by insurance companies that may propose future coverage costs for County employees. The Department supervisors were asked to encourage their employees to seek timely medical services and not wait until year end. This would avoid "spiking" in claim amounts, and should benefit the County as we seek future medical insurance coverage by showing a leveled out use of benefits. It was also discussed that preliminary reports indicate that the new co-payments for prescription medications are showing an overall decrease in payments for the month of November, 2003.

#### **EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER/HOMELAND SECURITY**

Sheriff Jim Higen reported he received a report from the Department of Health regarding the "mad cow disease." There is testing of Magic Valley cattle for this. Sheriff Higen reported on policies that have been developed for procedures to be followed when a local disaster emergency has been declared. It was moved and seconded to approve the amount of \$1509.00 for improvement of the telephone system and \$4327.90 to purchase 1 UHF radio and 1 VHF radio and voting was unanimous by the Board.

#### **COBRA**

Kerry McMurray discussed the COBRA status. He is working with Tim Preston of Financial Strategies. COBRA Management Systems has been providing COBRA services for the County for over \$1100.00 per annum. It was moved and seconded that we contract with MBA, who currently administers the County's flex plan, to provide the County with COBRA services for approximately \$50.00 per month and voting was unanimous by the Board.

#### **TAX DEED ISSUANCE**

The Board reviewed the tax deed issuance for properties in the County. It was moved and seconded to execute the orders and voting was unanimous by the Board.

#### **HOWELL CANYON ROAD MATTERS**

The Board reviewed the Burley Highway District's report of expenditures for the Howell Canyon road for 2003.

#### **ANNEX BUILDING MATTERS**

Kerry McMurray and Marty Holland recommend that all windows except the 3 large windows in the front have blinds installed. The County has received 3 quotes, Lee's Furniture, Ultra Sonic Blind Cleaning, and Pro Paint.

#### **AWARD TO PURCHASE AND INSTALL BLINDS AT ANNEX BUILDING**

The Board reviewed the quotes for the Assessor's office blinds. After review and recommendation, it was moved and seconded to award the bid of \$1,553.00 to Ultra Sonic Blind Cleaning, less the amount attributable to the front center windows. It was also decided to ask Ultra Sonic to hold open their pricing for center blinds for six (6) months, in case further review determined that such should later be installed. Voting was unanimous by the Board.

#### **CMAQ FUNDING**

The Board reviewed the letter of support for Albion Highways District's application for CMAQ funding for Flusher/De-Icer truck. It was moved and seconded to sign the letter and voting was unanimous by the Board.

#### **NORTH RIM PROJECT**

The Board reviewed the request for a letter of support for the North Rim Project from SCITRDA. It was moved and seconded to sign the letter of support and voting was unanimous by the Board.

#### **CASSIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Board reviewed the request from the Cassia County Historical Society for funds. It was moved and seconded to approve payment of one half (\$5,000.00) of the budgeted amount (\$10,000.00) to the Historical Society and voting was unanimous by the Board.

#### **LETTER OF SUPPORT**

The Board reviewed the letter of support for the Burley Highway District Re: Yale Road project, Stage 3. It was moved and seconded to sign the letter of support and voting was unanimous by the Board.

#### **2003 ANNUAL CONSTRUCTION REPORT**

Dan Barker reviewed the Quarterly Construction Report for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2003. He also reviewed a new Cassia County Building Application and the procedures for using the forms. He has also developed a manufactured and commercial built house packet. These packets and forms are to be used when citizens come in for building permits.

#### **US FOREST SERVICE/BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Scott Nannenga of the USFS reported on the snowfall and water equivalency for the year to date. Reported that within 2-3 years the USFS and BLM will co-locate their offices to provide better services. There may be a new building constructed on property owned by the BLM.

Wendy Reynolds of the BLM reported on refinement of the BLM and the creation of a new district within Idaho, named the Twin Falls District. This will allow the BLM to be more users-friendly by providing better services to the citizens of the district. She reported on new grazing regulations, which will facilitate recognition of ranching and grazing in this area. These regulations will help with management of the grazing permits and assist the permit holders. She will be sending letters to the permit holders regarding the drought conditions that still exist.

Kelly Adams reported the Upper Snake RAC would be impacted by the creation of a new BLM district. Commissioner Crane commented that there would probably be a new RAC created in the new proposed BLM district.

#### **CASSIA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

The Board reviewed the negotiated scope of work, labor estimate and schedule on the Cassia County Transportation Plan.

#### **MID-SNAKE RC&D**

The Board reviewed the report and request for funding for the Mid-Snake RC&D.

#### **COUNTY EXPENDITURE**

The Board reviewed the County=s Payables Approval Report dated January 23, 2004. A motion was made and seconded to approve the report. Voting was unanimous by the Board.

CURRENT EXPENSES	104	\$18,676.10
INDIGENT FUND	105	\$250.00
DISTRICT COURT FUND	106	\$7,683.61
COUNTY ROADS (UNORG) FUND	107	\$1,502.16
WEED & PEST FUND	108	\$174.52
REVALUATION FUND	114	\$520.87
911 COMMUNICATIONS FUND	115	\$362.89
COUNTY SNOWMOBILE FUND	118	\$4,148.42
JUSTICE FUND	130	\$25,272.77
PHYSICAL FACILITIES FUND	144	\$144.82
ADULT MISDEMEANOR PROBATION	149	\$984.88
BOX ELDER CO. BOOKMOBILE TRUST	151	\$2,109.50
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$61,830.54</b>

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 1:50 pm it was proposed by Commissioner Handy and seconded by Commissioner Christensen that the Board convene in Executive Session under Idaho Code Section 67-2345(1)(d) with Commissioner Christensen voting yea, Commissioner Crane voting yea, and Commissioner Handy voting yea. The purpose and general tenor of the meeting was to discuss medical indigent matters. Following the discussion, it was proposed and seconded that the Board return to regular session at 2:10 pm. Voting was unanimous by the Board.

Following Executive Session the Board Approved Case #203122 and Case #203169. Denied Case #203170, Case #204001, Case #204003, and Case #204009. Signed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decision for Case #203107, Case #203108, Case #203112, Case #203123, Case #203139, and Case #203141. Signed Release of Lien regarding the Sprague property.

#### **RECESS**

Meeting was recessed until 9:00 a.m., Monday, February 9, 2004.

#### **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE AT TODAY=S MEETING**

Renee Wells, SIP; Brandon Fiala, Times News; Mayor Jon Anderson, City of Burley; Larry Hale

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

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/s/  
Larry A. Mickelsen, Clerk

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/s/  
Dennis Crane, Chairman