

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 July 19, 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 July & August 2004.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Board reviewed the following:

1. The announcement of the change of location of the District 4 meetings from Rupert to Blaine County.
2. An invitation to attend the Mount Harrison Interpretive Area and Botanical Special Interest Area dedication on Wednesday July 28, 2004 at 11:00am at the Pomerelle Ski Resort parking lot.

#### **LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION**

James Gustin of Western Benefit Solutions presented a request to obtain information and quotes regarding the Cassia County Employee Benefit plan. It was moved and seconded to sign the Letter of Authorization and voting was unanimous by the Boards.

#### **LAND ACQUISITION REQUEST**

Brian Tibbets of the City of Burley made a request for the County to purchase land along the Snake River west of Overland Avenue. The land belongs to City Council member Dennis Curtis, and would be used to develop a park as part of the "greenbelt." He requested that the County purchase the land and then Mr. Tibbets would assist in applying for a grant from the Idaho Parks and Recreation to pay for the land acquisition. The Board requested that Al Barrus review the request to help the Board make an informed decision.

#### **DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING**

**Public Defender:** Doug Whipple discussed the Public Defender Clients Report for June 2004. He also discussed the need for an additional lawyer on the Public Defender staff because of their huge workload. He will be discussing this need with the Minidoka County Commissioners later today and requesting that Minidoka County and Cassia County split the cost of the new attorney.

**Assessor:** Marty Holland reported that the assessment deadlines are now past but they continue to do assessments for the upcoming year. They are fully staffed and enjoy their new facility. He also reported on the value of workshops he attended at the NACo conference.

**Detention Center:** Dennis Dexter reported that the MCCJC is now fully staffed. The population is currently 150, which is a low point for the past few weeks, 33 of them are inmates from the State of Idaho.

**Sheriff's Department:** Jim Higen and Cary Bristol reported that Don Green has turned in his retirement request for October 2004. They reported that the Sheriff's Department is exceptionally busy with the celebrations throughout the County at this time.

**Treasurer:** Gayle Erekson reported on the NACo conference and the efforts of the Treasurer's office to accomplish their collections.

**Janitorial/Maintenance:** Sharon Higgins reported that everything is going fine. The new tread on

the stairwell is wearing well. The parking lot striping contract will be awarded soon to complete the new parking lot.

**Weed Department:** Gordon Edwards reported on the successful efforts of the Weed Department to resolve requests regarding weed and thistle control throughout the County.

**County Administrator:** Kerry McMurray reported that Job's Daughters want to conduct a car wash in the South Parking lot. The Board approved the request. He reported on the need to shingle the County Annex building, and the Board approved seeking quotes to have the roof re-done. The announcement to replace Steve Vaughn as the head of the Misdemeanor Probations was discussed.

**Clerk:** Larry Mickelsen reported on the change of location for the District 4 meetings. He also requested the Department Heads complete the job descriptions that were to be finished last week.

**Prosecuting Attorney:** Al Barrus reported on the workload of the Prosecutor's office.

#### **HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT**

Sheriff Jim Higen reported on a grant from the federal government for Homeland Security for \$348,247.80. The total amount was broken down into various amounts for different functions related to Homeland Security. It was moved and seconded to sign the grant award document and voting was unanimous by the Board.

#### **LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT**

Al Barrus discussed the law enforcement contract with the City of Burley with Sheriff Jim Higen and Captain Cary Bristol regarding the equipment that was owned by the City when the contract with the County was implemented. The question was posed as to how the Board wanted to resolve the equipment issue. Cary Bristol of the Sheriff's Department has established an average value for the equipment, which is approximately \$131,700.00. The Board wanted to leave the language concerning return of equipment the same as it was in the original agreement. The City has proposed paying the County 12 monthly payments per year totaling \$1,314,769 for the next 2 years. Al Barrus will send a copy of the proposed contract to Randy Stone for the city to discuss.

#### **CHANGE OF STATUS**

The Board reviewed two changes of status forms, one from the Detention Center and one from the Sheriff's Department. It was moved and seconded to approve the changes of status and voting was unanimous by the Board.

#### **HOREJS**

The Board discussed the current status of the County property that was tax-defaulted by the Horejs and the dates of the expected Court actions.

#### **DENTAL CARE CONTRACT**

Al Barrus, Kerry McMurray and Dennis Dexter met with Doctor Wright regarding the new dental contract. The contract calls for the MCCJC to pay \$3,800.00 per month regardless of the number of patients he has. The contract allows either party to cancel the contract with 30 days notice. It was moved and seconded to sign the contract and make it effective immediately upon getting approval of the Minidoka County Board of County Commissioners and voting was unanimous by the Board.

#### **KELLER ASSOCIATES**

The Board reviewed and discussed the Keller Associates request for comments on the water system improvements project for the City of Burley. Kerry McMurray will send a letter to Keller Associates advising them of the comments of the Board.

#### **PUBLIC DEFENDER CONFLICTS REPORT**

The Board reviewed Dennis Byington's Public Defender Conflicts Report for May 2004.

**BLM/US FOREST SERVICE**

Dena Santini of the U.S. Forest Service reported on the announcement for the cutting of timber and they are currently in the appeal period. There have been 3 or 4 small fires, but nothing major. Roads in the forest have been damaged because of the storms we have had recently. Wendy Reynolds and Kathy Stangl reported on the activities of the BLM. Fires have not been a problem yet and they are having their fire crews do other things to keep them busy. The fire threat level is low at this time. Wendy invited the Board to a meeting tomorrow, 27 July 04 at the Perrine bridge in Twin Falls but none of the Commissioners will be able to attend. The Windlands wind farm project is on hold until the Environmental Impact Study for the sage grouse is completed.

**COUNTY EXPENDITURE**

The Board reviewed the County's Payables Approval Report dated July 26, 2004. A motion was made and seconded to approve the report. Voting was unanimous by the Board.

CURRENT EXPENSES	104	\$29,844.10
INDIGENT FUND	105	\$4000.00
DISTRICT COURT FUND	106	\$3,813.99
COUNTY ROADS (UNORG) FUND	107	\$1,710.66
WEED & PEST FUND	108	\$69.22
JR COLLEGE TUITION FUND	113	\$42,250.00
911 COMMUNICATIONS FUND	115	\$366.60
COUNTY SNOWMOBILE FUND	118	\$15.00
JUSTICE FUND	130	\$172,774.55
PHYSICAL FACILITIES FUND	144	\$114.00
ADULT MISDEMEANOR PROBATION	149	\$30.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$254,988.12</b>

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 11:52am it was proposed by Commissioner Christensen and seconded by Commissioner Handy that the Board convene in Executive Session under Idaho Code Section 67-2345(1)(b) with Commissioner Crane voting yea, Commissioner Christensen voting yea, and Commissioner Handy voting yea. The purpose and general tenor of the meeting was to discuss employee matters. Following the discussion, it was proposed and seconded that the Board return to regular session at 11:55am. Voting was unanimous by the Board.

Following Executive Session the Board will have the entry changed to proper budget line.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 11:56am 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 12:12pm. Voting was unanimous by the Board.

Following Executive Session the Board Signed Release of Medically Indigent Lien for Case #203018. Approved Case #204078 and Case #204068. Took Case #204079 under advisement. Signed Conditionally Release of Medically Indigent Lien for Case #265988.

**COMMUNITY GUARDIAN APPLICATION**

The Board reviewed an application from the Board of Community Guardians for Peter G.

Snow to be appointed to the Community Guardian Board. It was moved and seconded to approve the application and voting was unanimous by the Board.

**FEDERAL ASSISTANCE**

The Board reviewed an application for Federal Assistance for Weed Control. The application was for \$22,000.00 Federal funding and \$3,000.00 from the applicant for a total of \$25,000.00. It was moved and seconded to sign the application and voting was unanimous by the Board.

**RECESS**

Meeting was recessed until 9:00 a.m., Monday, August 2, 2004.

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE AT TODAY'S MEETING**

Renee Wells, SIP; Chip Thompson, Times News

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

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Larry A. Mickelsen, Clerk

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Dennis Crane, Chairman