

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 November 15, 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 November 2004.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Board reviewed the following:

1. An invitation to attend an Idaho Public Records Law Training meeting in Rupert, presented by Brian Kane, Lead Deputy in the Idaho Attorney General's Office.

#### **COUNTY SURVEY PROJECT**

Steve Pearson and Todd Quast Desert West Land Surveys presented an update of the survey project of Cassia County. They discussed the coordination required to use the information they develop with ARCVIEW with the GIS efforts in the County. They presented a bill to the Board for professional services rendered. It was moved and seconded to permit payment of the bill of \$990.00 and voting was unanimous by the Board.

#### **DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING**

**Public Defender:** Doug Whipple presented the Cassia County Public Defender Clients Commissioners Report.

**Assessor:** Marty Holland reported that there are a lot of calls regarding their assessed property values, on which the property taxes are based. Marty will sponsor the elected officials holiday dinner this year.

**Detention Center:** Dennis Dexter reported that the bailiff and transport officer's schedules are very full and it makes for a difficult situation at times. The detention center is fully staffed at this time. The revenue is higher than they expected, so the projection is to be over the amount projected for the year. They currently have 152 inmates in detention.

**Sheriff's Department:** Jim Higen reported they are still down 1 full time dispatcher. Tim Pethel, a canine officer has turned in his resignation to move to Boise. The dog he is working with is too old to be trained to work with another officer and he requested that Officer Pethel be allowed to keep the dog. There would be a need for a release of liability for him to keep the dog. It was moved and seconded that Tim be allowed to keep the dog, declaring that the animal has no value based upon the long-standing relationship between the dog and the handler, making it too difficult for the dog to be trained to work with another handler, and a release of liability be prepared for Officer Pethel's signature. Voting was unanimous by the Board on the motion.

**Treasurer:** Gayle Erekson reported that tax notices have been out since the 6<sup>th</sup> of November. Some consideration should be given to provide a telephone for the public to use when they pay their taxes by credit card. Some times part time help is needed and it is often difficult to find someone. She explained that the Board needed to approve a form from Wells Fargo form authorizing the Treasurer to invest money with them. It was moved and seconded to sign the form and voting was unanimous by the Board.

**Janitorial/Maintenance:** Sharron Higgins reported that a person was coming to conduct an energy assessment of the Courthouse. There is also someone from Sylvania coming to discuss the change of lighting in the County Buildings. The new lights will be more economical and provide better lighting. There is a need for a new snow removal contract and an individual will be talking to Sharron to be considered for the contract.

**Extension Office:** Richard Garrard reported that the new 4-H coordinator is working out very well. Joan is doing excellent work.

**County Administrator:** Kerry McMurray discussed providing the County employees with a gift from the County. It was decided to give the employees gift certificates as was done last year. He has an employee that needs to be allowed to extend vacation time for two weeks. It was moved and seconded to allow the extended time for using personal vacation and voting was unanimous by the Board.

**Clerk:** Larry Mickelsen requested that department heads and supervisors be aware of payment due dates and get the required claim forms into the Auditor's office in a timely manner.

#### **EAST & WEST CASSIA SOIL/WATER DISTRICTS**

The Board reviewed the requests for release of funds to East and West Cassia Soil and Water Conservation Districts. It was moved and seconded to approve \$2,500.00 for each of the Soil and Water Conversation Districts and voting was unanimous by the Board.

#### **JUROR QUESTIONNAIRES**

The Board reviewed recent jury questionnaires regarding Courthouse facilities.

#### **ICRMP ELECTION**

The Board reviewed the ICRMP Board of Trustee's election. It was moved and seconded that the Board vote for Clay Handy to fill the position and voting was unanimous by the Board.

#### **HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT**

The Board discussed the requests for proposal/invitations to bid with the Cassia County Sheriff's office regarding Homeland Security Grant funds. It was moved and seconded to authorize the Sheriff to sign the invitation to bid and voting was unanimous by the Board.

#### **CITY OF ROCKS STAGE 2**

The Board reviewed the proposed agreements for Stage 2 of the City of Rocks Back Country Byway construction. It was moved and seconded to approve the agreements and voting was unanimous by the Board.

#### **REGENCE BLUESHIELD**

The Board reviewed the County insurance policy with BlueShield of Idaho. It was moved and seconded to sign the policy and voting was unanimous by the Board.

#### **VA MATTERS**

It was moved and seconded to approve payment of \$3200.00 to the Disabled American Veterans to assist in purchase of a new passenger van and voting was unanimous by the Board.

#### **COUNTY BUILDING MATTERS**

The Board received a discussion from John Hamilton of Cascade Lighting and Dan Bush of Magic Valley Electric regarding the changeover of the lighting system in the County Buildings. The costs to change to a new lighting system will be recouped over a 10 year period through the savings in utility charges.

#### **ASSESSOR'S FORMER OFFICE SPACE**

The Board reviewed potential uses for the Assessor's former office space in the Courthouse. Kerry McMurray and Larry Mickelsen presented their ideas as to how the office space could best be used. The Board will review the proposals and make an informed decision.

### **BLM/U.S. FOREST SERVICE**

Wendy Reynolds reported that she had attended the Wool Growers Association and Cattlemen's Association meetings. She spoke about the concerns about the Sage Grouse on a national level. A decision, on the National level, regarding the Sage Grouse is due out on December 29, 2004. The Windlands concerns regarding all types of birds and wildlife are being considered and a draft EIS is due out, probably in the Spring of 2005.

Scott Nannenga reported that the water levels in the mountains are way behind what they should be for this time of year. Cattle are gone from the mountain grazing ranges now. Reported that the Fish and Game department will be releasing Big Horn sheep in the mountains. The Forest Service has started selling Christmas trees.

### **COUNTY EXPENDITURE**

The Board reviewed the County's Payables Approval Report dated November 19, 2004. A motion was made and seconded to approve the report. Voting was unanimous by the Board.

CURRENT EXPENSES	104	\$18,120.34
DISTRICT COURT FUND	106	\$6,311.53
COUNTY ROADS (UNORG) FUND	107	\$33,922.63
WEED & PEST FUND	108	\$503.95
JR COLLEGE TUITION FUND	113	\$54,000.00
REVALUATION FUND	114	\$558.26
911 COMMUNICATIONS FUND	115	\$362.00
COUNTY SNOWMOBILE FUND	118	\$15.00
JUSTICE FUND	130	\$89,070.35
PHYSICAL FACILITIES FUND	144	\$824.82
ADULT MISDEMEANOR PROBATION	149	\$205.36
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$203,894.24</b>

### **CHANGE OF STATUS**

The Board reviewed two (2) changes of status forms, one (1) for the District Court and one (1) for the Coroner's office. It was moved and seconded to approve the changes of status and voting was unanimous by the Board.

### **CATTLE GUARDS**

The Board reviewed a letter to Jay and Blaine Tanner of Grouse Creek regarding the cattle guard on the property they lease in the Almo area. It was moved and seconded to sign the letter and voting was unanimous by the Board.

### **COMMISSIONER EXCUSED**

At 11:50am, Commissioner Christensen was excused from further involvement in today's meeting for a scheduled medical appointment.

### **BOARD OF EQUALIZATION**

It was proposed and seconded to convene as the County Board of Equalization. Voting was unanimous by the Board.

It was proposed and seconded to approve the Home Owners request to cancel the taxes on parcel # RP 10S24E279101 A. Voting was unanimous by the Board. Notices will be sent to the property owners

It was proposed and seconded to return to regular session. Voting was unanimous by the Board.

**INDIGENT HEARING**

The hearing that was scheduled for 1:30pm was not conducted because the individual for whom the hearing was scheduled failed to appear.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 2:15pm it was proposed by Commissioner Handy and seconded by Commissioner Crane that the Board convene in Executive Session under Idaho Code Section 67-2345(1)(d) with 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 2:50pm. Voting was unanimous by the Board.

Following Executive Session the Board Signed Certificate of Denial for Case #204126, Case #204130, Case #204132, Case #204133, Case #204134, Case #204136, Case #204137, and Case #204138. Signed Notice of Lien and Application for Medically Indigent Benefits for Case #204148, Case #204149, Case #204151, Case #204152, and Case #204153. Approved payments for Case #204102, Case #204116 and Case #204097.

**RECESS**

Meeting was recessed until 9:00 a.m., Monday, December 7, 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