

## COMMISSIONER MINUTES

#556

November 27, 2006

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 A. Mickelsen, Clerk of the Board, and Kerry D. McMurray, County Administrator, present.

### PREVIOUS WEEK'S MINUTES

The minutes for November 20, 2006 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 & December 2006.

### CORRESPONDENCE

The Board reviewed the following:

1. A letter from the USDA Forest Service and BLM RE: the Southern Idaho Interagency Dispatch Center that provides fire suppression support for land management agencies in Idaho.
2. An invitation to attend the 2006 Brightest Star Awards on December 7, 2006 in Boise.
3. A form from IAC RE: IAC Directory of County Elected Officials.
4. A Notice of Filing of Case No. IPC-E-06-24, the Idaho Power Company's 2006 Integrated Resource Plan.

### GUARDIAN AD LITEM

The Board reviewed the Guardian Ad Litem Cases and the Tuft Law Office Invoice. It was moved and seconded to approve payment and voting was unanimous by the Board.

### CHANGE OF STATUS

The Board reviewed one (1) Change of Status form for the County Sheriff's Office. It was moved and seconded to approve the changes of status and voting was unanimous by the Board.

### BOOKMOBILE SERVICE

The Board reviewed the 2007 Utah State Contract for the Bookmobile Service. The Board will execute the contract on December 4, 2006 after the promised revenue has been deposited in the bank.

### URBAN RENEWAL PLAN

The Board reviewed the proposed modification to the City of Burley Urban Renewal Plan. The Board requested that the County Attorney and County Assessor review the proposed modification prior to the Board making a decision.

### GIFT CERTIFICATES

The Board reviewed the proposal to present gift certificates to all full time county employees. It was moved and seconded to approve and execute the employee gift certificates and voting was unanimous by the Board. The Clerk's office will create a list of employees who qualify for the certificates and give the lists to the Department Heads. Mr. McMurray will check and see how many certificates were not redeemed the previous year.

### DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING

**Assessor:** Marty Holland reported that the citizens are pleased with value increases and the property taxes decreased. The levy rates are the lowest in 20 years. They have sent out the sub roll and the transient properties. Assessor meetings are in Boise next as is the Associated

Taxpayer Conference.

**Detention Center:** Dennis Dexter reported that the population is 147, with 11 shared inmates from Minidoka and Cassia Counties, 39 State inmates, 38 from Cassia County, 42 from Minidoka County, 6 from Twin Falls County, 8 from Jerome County, 1 from the Border Patrol, and 10 U.S. Marshal holds. There are currently 4 vacancies and a background check on 1 potential employee is on-going. Inmate housing revenue is down from this time last year.

**Sheriff's Department:** Sheriff Jim Higen reported that their new hire resigned last week, after 3 weeks of employment. The reason was the cost of travel from Pocatello to Burley. The Sheriff's staff is down 1 employee and testing will be held next week. Sheriff Higen will attend the Jail Standards meetings in Boise next week.

**Janitorial/Maintenance:** Sharon Higgins reported that everything is going fine. Tom Tolness will be responsible for snow removal of the sidewalks again this year. He does not clean the parking lots; they are cleaned by another individual, name unknown, that also will be under contract with the County.

**Extension Office:** Richard Garrard reported that all is going well. Grace has many classes regarding weight management. Rosie is spending a lot of time working with the kids in the Alternative School and they are receiving a lot of good recognition. He has started his farm management classes. The weed control classes will start soon and the campaign for puncture vine is the biggest problem and educational programs will start soon in control of it. The office receives a lot of telephone calls asking how to cook a turkey during the Thanksgiving season.

**Weed Department:** Gordon Edwards reported that they are working on roadways for noxious weed certification. The BLM lands will be on the same program for noxious weeds that the Forest Service is on. The chemical companies are working to ensure the proper chemicals are available and used for noxious weed control. Gordon will meet with the City Officials Re: puncture vine problems. He will also schedule a meeting with the farmers Re: Noxious weed control.

**County Administrator:** Kerry McMurray asked the Department Heads to check the list of employees to ensure that everyone who deserves a gift certificate receives one. Dee Yeaman is doing a lot of inspections for concrete this week. P&Z hearing will resume next week with many issues to discuss. Kerry reported on the County Compliance Officer, Melissa Price, and her various responsibilities. Melissa came into the meeting and was introduced to the Department Heads.

**Clerk:** Larry Mickelsen inquired if the Elected Officials receive the emails sent to them regarding the schedule of meetings with our Legislative District Elected Officials. He also informed all Department Heads that they could attend the meetings that the Board schedules with the Legislators.

**County Attorney:** Al Barrus reported that all is going just fine. It seems that the numbers have gone down, but the Drug Task Force will change that very soon.

**Commissioners:** Chairman Crane inquired regarding use of the time clock. The Department Heads will ensure that everything functions properly and they show support of the program. A back-up individual for time clock reporting will be necessary for each of the Departments.

### **QUITCLAIM DEED**

The Board reviewed the quitclaim deed for all mineral rights owned by Cassia County pursuant to a Tax Deed dated March 18, 1982 recorded as Instrument No. 141960 unto U.S. Geothermal, Inc. It was moved and seconded to execute the quitclaim deed and voting was unanimous by the Board.

### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

County Attorney Al Barrus was excused from the meeting at 10:30am to conduct some court related procedures and responsibilities. He returned to the meeting at 11:45am.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 10:35am 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 10:50am. Voting was unanimous by the Board.

Following Executive Session, the Board signed assignments for 7 cases. Approved Case #206059. Denied Case #206121. Signed Notice of Lien for Cases #206125, #206126 and #206127. Signed Stipulation for Enlargement of Time Limitations for Case #205122.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 10:50am 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)(f) 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 pending litigation. Following the discussion, it was proposed and seconded that the Board return to regular session at 10:59am. Voting was unanimous by the Board.

Following Executive Session, the Board will continue to monitor the situation.

### **PLANNING & ZONING**

The Board reviewed the names and potential questions to ask the eight (8) applicants for the Planning & Zoning Commission. Interviews for the applicants will be conducted on December 4, 2006.

### **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Ken Miller reported that Tom Dyer will be installed as the State of Idaho Assistant Secretary of the Interior on December 19, 2006 at 9:00am in Boise. He will tour some of the districts and will be encouraged to come to Cassia County to see the resources of the County. The Raft River Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA) bids have been received and will be opened on December 14, 2006. The blocks for lease total approximately 7,000 acres. The minimum bids accepted will be established by State appraisal officials. The area is about 16 miles south of Malta, ID and about 10 miles east of Almo, ID. The winning bidder submits an Application for Permit to Drill (APD) and the Burley Office and Idaho State Office will review the APD. The BLM has completed the Conner Fire Rehab and it was successful. No decision has been made regarding closure of livestock in the area but it will not cause any problems. The BLM is genuinely concerned with the concerns of the county residents and are desirous of hearing any comments that the BLM can have any control over.

### **U.S. FOREST SERVICE**

Scott Nannenga reported that Jean Kollmeyer is the new Forest Supervisor. They have received permission from the Federal level to issue permits to existing permittees and have this completed by the end of March 2007. There are 2 quarries on the west slope of the Cottrell range that are being tested to see if the stone qualifies to be considered as "Oakley stone." If it qualifies, production will begin very soon. Camping costs that have increased may have negative impact on citizens who go to camp and are unaware of increased costs.

**RECESS**

Meeting was recessed until 9:00 a.m., Monday, December 4, 2006.

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

Renee Wells, SIP

**ATTEST:**

/s/Larry A. Mickelsen

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Larry A. Mickelsen, Clerk

**APPROVED:**

/s/Dennis D. Crane

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Dennis Crane, Chairman