

COMMISSIONER MINUTES

#579

November 24, 2008

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

PREVIOUS WEEK'S MINUTES

The Minutes for November 17, 2008 were discussed. A motion was made and seconded to approve and proceed with publication of an appropriate synopsis. Roll call vote was unanimous by the Board.

CALENDAR

The Board reviewed the calendar for November/December 2008.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board reviewed the following:

1. An email announcing that the County had received an additional payment of PILT for \$662,323.00 from the Department of the Interior.
2. A newspaper article related to the Courts needing more interpreters.
3. A packet from the Idaho Department of Labor requesting work force information regarding County employees. The Board had directed Clerk Larry Mickelsen to complete the survey and present it to the Board for their review and approval.

JUNKYARD MATTERS

Cassia County Enforcement Officer Melissa Price met with the Board to discuss the canal junkyard of Bill and Darlene Cole. She is proposing that the county contract with a 3rd party to clear the canal property and dispose of the remnants. It was moved and seconded to have the Commissioners send them a letter informing him that the Board is appreciative of his efforts thus far, but he will have a deadline of 60 days to complete the clean-up project or the county will have a 3rd party contractor complete the project and he will be billed for the work, and roll call vote was unanimous by the Board. Matters regarding other previously considered junkyard areas were also discussed.

CACHE PEAK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The Board reviewed a letter from the Cache Peak Civic Association and detailed Kerry McMurray to draft a letter of response informing them that the matter has been taken under advisement.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

The Board reviewed the P&Z Commission membership. There will be 2 openings this year and both Renee Wells and Jim Paskett have requested to continue serving as members of the P&Z. It was moved and seconded to reappoint Ms. Wells and Mr. Paskett as members of the P&Z Commission and roll call vote was unanimous by the Board.

WIDOW'S BENEFIT FUND

County Attorney Al Barrus met with Gayle Erekson to discuss the use of the Widow's Benefit fund to pay property taxes. Commissioner Minutes from 1984 reflect that the Fund can only be used to benefit Widows and last weeks approval to pay property taxes for a single senior citizen will be retracted as she is not a widow, but a divorcee. The Commissioners will send her a letter informing her of the situation and that she was not qualified for the fund and the letter will inform her of the circuit breaker and other options.

COUNTY ROAD BOARD

The Board discussed recent County Road Board matters presented by Kerry McMurray. This

was in regards to the road into Travis Anderson property. Travis will be required to install new cattle guards. It was moved and seconded to recognize the road as a County Road and roll call vote was unanimous by the Board. Roads into other areas in the County were also discussed, including the road into the City of Rocks, as being the responsibility of County Roads, after being provided with funding.

DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING

Assessor: Marty Holland reported they are busy with sub roll and getting notices out. Occupancy of homes is a consideration at this time. He will check to see what the percentage of collected fees is retained by the County.

Detention Center: Rob Neiwerth reported that Clay Anderson's last day is November 28, as he is going to work for the Sheriff as a Bailiff. He has 3 open positions with 2 applicants, 1 female and 1 male. The Physical Examination will be given today and the polygraph on Wednesday the 26th. There are 2 in POST and 2 in in-service and all seem to be going well. His discussion with the State Department of Corrections indicated that the State will keep 30-40 inmates at the MCCJC. Currently there are 169 inmates, with 61 from Cassia, 43 from Minidoka, 37 from the State, 20 from the US Marshal and 5 from other jurisdictions. 128 males and 41 females with 119 felonies and 31 misdemeanors, 95 pre-sentenced and 74 sentenced, also 25 State prisoners on parole/probation.

Sheriff' Department: Sheriff-Elect Randy Kidd reported that Sheriff Jim Higen and Tim Little have both submitted letters of resignation effective December 31, 2008. There was discussion regarding resignation without receiving a salary. Mr. Barrus will investigate and follow up with the matter. He discussed Homeland Security monies that may be available for use within the Courthouse to increase security. He reported that the vehicle that was approved has been ordered.

Treasurer: Gayle Erekson reported that everything is fine, taxes are being paid and the citizens think they have increased, while in reality, the taxes have not been increased.

Janitorial/Maintenance: Sharon Higgins reported that things are going well and there are no problems.

Extension Office: Richard Garrard reported that all is going well. The school programs and 4H programs are functioning well. He invited the Board to a celebration lunch on December 8, 2008. He indicated that his budget will have to be reopened for the purchase of a new pickup. Richard will develop a projection for this.

County Administrator: Kerry McMurray reported that things are busy. New score sheets for CAFOs will be discussed at a meeting on December 11, 2008 from 10:00am to 12:00pm. The County computer system is being invaded by computer viruses, and Stephenson's will provide assistance in combating this. There is a new program to assist with preventing viruses and Stephenson's recommend that we purchase it. The cost will be about \$6,816.00 for a 4 year period. It was moved and seconded to purchase the software and roll call vote was unanimous by the Board.

Building Matters - Kerry McMurray proposed spending \$2,500 for push plates for handicapped citizens who come into the building down the ramp. The Board requested that the proposal be delayed until the Homeland Security individual comes to discuss the increased security matters.

Clerk: Larry Mickelsen thanked everyone for their efforts to support his staff with matters related to payroll, time sheets and all court related matters. Wished everyone a very happy Thanksgiving.

Prosecuting Attorney: Al Barrus reported they are very busy with a jury trial going today. Many more are scheduled and Judge Crabtree is doing well with conducting the trials.

Commissioners: Commissioner Crane has been approached regarding having a tree for the Festival of Trees in future years. The Department Heads will inquire regarding interest in having a tree starting with next year. The proposal was made to have a committee from all departments to decorate

and participate with the festival of trees.

BOWEN PROPERTY TAX MATTERS

The Board discussed the Bowen tax matters with Marty Holland and Gayle Ereksen. It was moved and seconded to pay the taxes of \$564.12 from the fund that was used to purchase the property or the contingency fund, whichever fits, and roll call vote was unanimous by the Board.

CHANGE OF STATUS

The Board reviewed 2 changes of status forms, 1 for the District Court and 1 for the Sheriff's Office. It was moved and seconded to approve the changes of status and roll call vote was unanimous by the Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:40am 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)(a) 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 personnel matters. Following the discussion, the Board returned to regular session at 11:05am.

Following Executive Session the Board took the matter under advisement.

HOMELAND SECURITY/MOU

Sheriff Jim Higen met with the Board and presented a Memorandum of Understanding from the State of Idaho Department of Homeland Security, Re: the 2007 MOU Regarding State Use of 2007 Homeland Security Grant Funding on Behalf of Cassia County. It was moved and seconded to sign and execute the MOU and roll call vote was unanimous by the Board.

USFS

Scott Nannenga met with the Board discussed a scoping document for the FS Flats to install campsites. The request was for a letter of support for the proposal. The USFS is putting in for a grant from the State to drill a well at Twin Lakes, and also requested a letter of support for this proposal. It was moved and seconded to write letters of support for the 2 proposals and roll call vote was unanimous by the Board. The Rangers are meeting on December 4, 2008 to discuss and recommend members for the Resource Advisory Council. Scott stated that Cassia County has the largest share of the RAC funding. The USFS is getting their budget allocation from the Regional Office and they will have \$15,000.00 for Cheat Grass weed control, using the agreement with Weed Supervisor Gordon Edwards. The USFS wants to continue the agreement for the next year. There is a proposal for installation of 4 windtowers for testing next year.

BLM

Scott Barker met with the Board and reported there will be another geothermal sale on December 19, 2008 for 3 new parcels, totaling 8,677 acres. Commissioner Christensen inquired about the number of parcels that could be developed. Scott replied that the limits of the KGRA (Known Geothermal Resource Area) were about reached. He discussed the routes of the proposed electrical transmission lines. The installation of the new power lines could be several years in the future. He reported that Bruce Bedke has cattle that are in trespass, but the matters are being resolved. He reported that there is nothing definite happening with the Windland project, but they may be back in the next few months to initiate proceedings. The US Geothermal is looking into having wind power generation. During the next few months, a company in Utah may be here investigating some testing for wind power generation. He discussed issues with the County roads with property owned by the Ward's in the Almo area. He will discuss the matters with Sam Adams and the County Road Board. He has presented an Application for Transportation and Utility Systems and Facilities on Federal Lands. It was moved and seconded for Chairman Crane to sign the application and roll call vote was unanimous by the Board.

COUNTY EXPENDITURE

The Board reviewed the County's Payables Approval Report dated 11/24/2008. A motion was made and seconded to approve the report and roll call vote was unanimous by the Board.

CURRENT EXPENSES	104	\$3,089.02
INDIGENT FUND	105	\$22,765.31
DISTRICT COURT FUND	106	\$571.56
COUNTY ROADS & BRIDGES FUND	107	\$7,329.55
WEED & PEST FUND	108	\$6.65
JUSTICE FUND	130	\$23,461.85
PHYSICAL FACILITIES FUND	144	\$1,001.24
ADULT MISDEMEANOR PROBATION	149	\$3,733.53
	TOTAL	\$61,958.71

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 1:30pm 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, the Board returned to regular session at 2:40pm.

Following Executive Session the Board Approved Case # 208097; Signed Stipulation of Time Limitations for Cases # 208081, 208088, and 208090; Signed Release of Lien for Cases # 208063, 208079, 208091, 208122, 208134, and 208138; Signed Notice of Lien for Case # 208139; Denied Cases # 208111, 208115, 208118, and 208128; Presented Case # 208135.

SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chairman Crane and Kerry McMurray participated in the South Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee Conference Call and the Forest Service will be sending out a press release and additional information concerning the RAC. The involved Counties and the Forest Service will accept candidate applications for RAC positions through January 16, 2009.

EMPLOYEE CERTIFICATES

After discussion, it was moved and seconded to have Kerry McMurray prepare a letter to the Cassia County employees thanking them for judicious use of the County benefits and prepare a certificate for \$100 to be used in one of four Cassia County grocery stores, and a \$20.00 for employees not on the County insurance as of December 1, 2008, and roll call vote was unanimous by the Board.

RECESS

Meeting was recessed until 9:00 a.m., Monday, December 8, 2008.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE AT TODAY'S MEETING

Margi Owens, Weekly News Journal;

ATTEST:

/s/Larry A. Mickelsen

Larry A. Mickelsen, Clerk

APPROVED:

/s/Dennis D. Crane

Dennis Crane, Chairman