

COMMISSIONER MINUTES

#593

November 16, 2009

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; Wendy L. Marr, Deputy Clerk of the Board, and Kerry D. McMurray, County Administrator, present.

EMERGENCY AGENDA ADDITION TOMEETING

At 9:06 am a motion was made and seconded to add an emergency meeting to the agenda to discuss Rock Creek Fire District matters. The matter was added to the agenda and the issue discussed. Mr. Barrus will seek information from the attorney advising Twin Falls County Commissioners and the attorney advising the Rock Creek Fire District, to determine what action, if any, that Cassia County can take to assist in rectifying the matter. The matter will be taken under advisement, pending further information from the prosecutor.

CSI

The Board reviewed and signed CSI Residency Certificates.

PREVIOUS WEEK'S MINUTES

The Minutes for November 9, 2009 were discussed. A motion was made and seconded to approve and proceed with publication of an appropriate synopsis. Roll call vote was unanimous with Commissioner Handy, Commissioner Christensen and Chairman Crane all voting yea.

CALENDAR

The Board reviewed the calendar for November 2009.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board reviewed the following:

1. A letter from Idaho Housing and Finance Association.

CHANGE OF STATUS

The Board reviewed two change of status forms, one from the Cassia County Sheriff's Office and the other from the Mini-Cassia Criminal Justice Center. It was moved and seconded to approve the changes of status and roll call vote was unanimous with Commissioner Handy, Commissioner Christensen and Chairman Crane all voting yea.

COUNTY EXPENDITURE

The Board reviewed the County's Payables Approval Report dated November 16, 2009. A motion was made and seconded to approve the report and the roll call vote was unanimous with Commissioner Handy, Commissioner Christensen and Chairman Crane all voting yea.

CURRENT EXPENSES	104	\$10,639.15
INDIGENT FUND	105	\$707.06
DISTRICT COURT FUND	106	\$917.96
COUNTY ELECTION FUND	116	\$57.72
ASSESSOR TRUST FUND	123	\$117.30
JUSTICE FUND	130	\$5,622.94
PHYSICAL FACILITIES FUND	144	\$1,068.62
ADULT MISDEMEANOR PROBATION	149	\$145.82
	TOTAL	\$19,276.57

MCDEC

The Board discussed the status of the MCDEC and decided to hold for further discussion. Based upon additional review of the matter by Commissioner Christensen, it was determined to process the invoice for payment at the next opportunity.

VETERAN SERVICE MATTERS

The Board met with Curtis Russell, Dick Dalton and Ron Beedle of Veterans Service's. Mr. Russell presented the minutes from their last meeting. They are in the new Veteran's office, now located in Minidoka, and need to make some improvements such as: allowing for handicap accessibility; a lock on the office door to help protect the privacy of the Veterans; and they would also like to install high-speed internet access allowing for instant access to online services with the VA for submission of applications and to shorten response times. Mr. Dalton addressed the Board and requested to be reimbursed for travel expenses citing that no pay increases were given this year to county employees. Mr. Dalton expressed that he would like the office to be relocated to Burley where they have been located since 1995, stating that it is more convenient for the office to be located in Burley because there is more for people to do in Burley while they wait. They are still looking for ways to pay the monthly gas bills through donations and other sources. Clay Handy stated that the county never received a gas bill from the City of Burley, therefore the City shut off the gas forcing the move. The Board will take the matter under advisement and do more research into possible solutions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:47 am 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 10:04 am. Following Executive Session the Board signed notice of lien for case # 2009118, 2009120 and 2009121, denied case # 2009108, 2009107 and 2009117, heard case #2009079 and signed release for case #98088, 98092, 98104, 98107, 98113, 98128, 99110, 99052, 99016, 99023, 99025, 99027, 99084, 99122, 200003, 200006, 200010, 200016 and 99077.

COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE

The Board met with Sam Adams to discuss County Road & Bridge Matters. Mr. Adams discussed a meeting he attended in Boise. He discussed what all needs to be done to the roads before it snows.

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The Board met with Devin Rigby, Mike Scott, Ron Robinson, Scott Malone and Scot Stacey of the Idaho Department of Transportation. Mr. Rigby told the Commissioners that they need to be aware that the current road map shows the miles of road and the county is receiving compensation for that. He stated that July 2010 is when they anticipate the changes are to go into effect and Cassia should see a reduction in next years budget due to the 15 mile drop of road that the county will no longer bear the greater responsibility for because the responsibilities will shift to the state and how those responsibilities will be divided. The road map needs to be submitted in mid December which will dictate monies Cassia receives next year. He explained how money is divided with LHTAC. Mr. Adams will meet with the Idaho Department of Transportation to go over the details and report back to the Commissioners.

AMBULANCE AGREEMENT EXTENSION

The Board discussed and Ambulance Agreement extension. Kerry McMurray will do

some follow-up with the hospital.

GEOHERMAL MATTERS

The Board discussed a report they received from Geothermal Energy Weekly regarding the recently passed legislation concerning the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriation Act of 2010 which contained a provision repealing the 25% share that counties receive from geothermal royalties as a part of the Energy Policy act of 2005. The new formula call for a 50/50 split between states and the federal government eliminating the counties share. Upon review an motion was made and seconded to sign and send the prepared letters to three delegates in Washington requesting that Senators Crapo and Risch consider co-sponsoring S.2607 and Representative Simpson consider support of H.R. 4060 which would restore the counties 25% of geothermal revenues.

GATEWAY WEST

The Board met with members of the Cassia County Task force to discuss the Gateway West Transmission Line Corridors. Currently Doug Balfour is the attorney representing Power County. The Commissioners were asked if Cassia County has an attorney for representation in this matter or if they would like to utilize Mr. Balfour and split the bill with Power County. Al Barrus stated that due to his offices current workload, he does not think they would be able to handle the matter and suggested that the commissioners speak with Power County and Mr. Balfour before making a decision. At 11:26 am Commissioner Christensen excused himself from the meeting to attend a SEIDO meeting. The Board reviewed the Irrigated Farm Land Operations/Estimated Losses/Damages worksheet, upon review a motion was made and seconded to disburse the worksheet. At 11:32 am the Board participated in a conference with representatives of the Nevada PUC. They discussed Regulations from the Public Utilities that were received as well as a possible alternative route that would have to dip into Nevada for approximately 5 miles. Nevada representatives requested that Al Barrus draw up a letter outlining their conversation. Upon completion of the letter a motion was made and seconded to sign and execute the letter. See attached.

ICRMP

The Board reviewed a Ballot from ICRMP Joint Powers Agreement to participate in the ICRMP Board of Trustee's election. Upon review a motion was made and seconded to cast their vote for Jerry Nance, Commissioner of Lincoln County.

LUNCH

At 11:55 am the Board departed for lunch at the Burley Inn with the Gateway West Transmission Line Task Force, where the Commissioners continued review and discussion of Gateway Transmission Line project matter during their working luncheon.

CURRENT COUNTY MATTERS

The Board met with Denton Darrington, Idaho State Senator and Scott Bedke, of the Idaho House of Representatives District 27 to discuss county matters and the upcoming legislative session. They discussed the Elections Consolidation and how it will impact Cassia County and stated that there is some speculation of putting it off. They discussed the 2010 Census. Also discussed was the declining economy and its impact on lower revenue from state sales tax, the rise in CAT claims, all of which is putting a burden on the state as well as the counties budgets. Welfare reform has been in place for 4 to 5 years and has been very successful. They discussed the Federal Prison Siting Project status and how having that in Idaho will bring in federal dollars as well as providing good paying jobs and benefits.

CATASTROPHIC HEALTH CARE

The Board reviewed a ballot from the Catastrophic Health Care Board. Upon review a motion was made and seconded to cast their vote for Paul Christensen.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 2:28 pm 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 Handy voting yea and Commissioner Crane 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 2:32 pm..

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 2:33 pm 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, the Board returned to regular session. The matter was taken under advisement by the Board

RECESS

Meeting was recessed until 10:00 a.m., Friday, November 20, 2009.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE AT TODAY'S MEETING

Margi Owens, Weekly News Journal; Laurie Welch, Times News; See Attached.

ATTEST:

/s/Wendy L. Marr

Wendy L. Marr, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED:

/s/Dennis D. Crane

Dennis Crane, Chairman