



# Cassia County Board of Commissioners

*Commissioner Chambers*

*1459 Overland Ave.*

*Burley, ID 83318*

[www.cassiacyounty.org](http://www.cassiacyounty.org)

**Board Chairman:**

*Dennis Crane*

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*Dennis Crane (District #3) ~ [dcrane@cassiacyounty.org](mailto:dcrane@cassiacyounty.org)*

## **SPECIAL MEETING**

Thursday, April 12, 2012

The Board of Cassia County Commissioners met in a special session on Thursday, April 12, 2012, at 8:00 a.m. in the Commissioner Chambers of the Cassia County Courthouse.

|                |                             |  |
|----------------|-----------------------------|--|
| THOSE PRESENT: | County Commissioners:       | Dennis Crane, Chairman<br>Paul Christensen<br>Bob Kunau  |
|                | Clerk of the Board:         | Joseph W. Larsen   |
|                | Prosecuting Attorney:       | Al Barrus  |
|                | Administrator:              | Kerry McMurray   |
|                | Judicial Complex Committee: | Casey Anderson<br>Dennis Byington<br>Bill Parsons<br>Blaine Cannon<br>Shannon Taylor<br>Michael Crabtree<br>Mick Hodge<br>Randy Kidd<br>Patty Justesen |
|                | New Media:                  | Jay Lenkersdorfer – The News Journal<br>Benito Baeza – KMVT  |

1) 8:00 AM REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF LCA ARCHITECT DRAWING 2 WITH THE JUDICIAL COMPLEX COMMITTEE

- a) Chairman Crane introduced the meeting and expressed a desire for the committee to look at the layout proposal of the Justice Complex. He indicated that the Board was preparing to move forward and desired suggestions from the committee for concerns or changes.

**CASSIA COUNTY COMMISSION**

**REGULAR SESSION**

**Thursday, April 12, 2012**

- b) Crane turned meeting over to Commissioner Kunau, who is over buildings in the County, to explain layout of Plan A21.
  - c) Clerk Larsen explained changes to the Clerk's area that have been proposed to allow for paying of infractions without having to go through security. That proposal included windows for clerks to assist the public as it is currently and would also include an area for the Jury Commissioner and for the Court Assistance Clerk.
  - d) Bill Parsons desired to know how the project was going to be funded and expressed concern that the project needed to be done appropriately and complete rather than part way. Crane concurred that the project needed to be done right and completed rather than done part way. Parsons also indicated that Council needed to have eye contact with the jury. Administrator McMurray indicated that developmental and specific designing is the next phase. The need for double doors in the vestibule of the two main courtrooms was questioned. Deputy Shannon Taylor indicated that it for a sound barrier. It was indicated that the Jerome facility was the same way. It was suggested that the bar and the judiciary meet with the architect and recommended additional time notice for the meeting in order to plan. McMurray indicated that the meeting was expedited to accommodate the judges who were going to be out of town next week.
  - e) The need for an area for council to talk to clients for pre-trials, preliminary hearings, and in-custodies that can be observed by security. The sally port and judges parking area will all be fenced in. Sheriff Kidd expressed a desire for privacy slats in the chain link fence.
  - f) Prosecutor Blaine Cannon and Public Defender Dennis Byington also suggested that the Public Defenders and Prosecutors desired a small office to do personal preparation work and to store their files for the day.
  - g) Judge Crabtree discussed his suggested layout for District Court-related workers that would include the law clerk, court reporter, and secretary. He also discussed the need for adequate space for jury selection. It was indicated that there would be seating for 90 in the new District Courtroom. Larsen discussed the difficulty to move or size the two large courtrooms differently due to the pillars that cannot be moved.
  - h) Taylor expressed concern regarding rearranging and accommodating pre-trials and juvenile video arraignments.
  - i) Barrus recommended getting the same group together with architect to hear each person's concerns. The judges need notice when the next meeting will be to adjust calendaring. McMurray asked them to identify a time when all three could get together and arrangements will be made for the architects to be here. That meeting will take place in the District Courtroom.
  - j) Byington suggested moving the holding cell to the east so the jury doesn't see the in-custody defendant when they enter the courtroom. The defendant could also be seated in the courtroom prior the jury being seated.
- 2) 9:10 AM DISCUSS DECLO POLLING PLACE
- a) Larsen indicated that following the designation of a change of polling place in the Declo precinct from the Declo High School to the Declo LDS Stake Family History Center, a concern had been expressed that there may be some who would refuse to utilize the Church to vote.
  - b) It was decided to allow opportunity for further public discussion regarding that polling place designation. The statutory deadline for the Board's designation of all polling places for the May 15, 2012, Primary Election is tomorrow, Friday, April 13, 2012.
  - c) Larsen explained to the Board that there are provisions to allow for appropriate alternatives for voters to avoid a polling place.

- i) Absentee voting by mail
  - ii) Absentee voting at the Courthouse
  - iii) Curbside voting at the polling place
  - iv) Curbside voting at the Courthouse
- d) The Church was selected by the Elections Office for a number of valid reasons.
- i) Long term consistent availability of the facility
  - ii) ADA Parking Accommodations
  - iii) Separation from other activities and people
  - iv) Separate proximal restroom availability
- e) Larsen indicated that he and workers in his office had no knowledge of objection in the past for the use of a church facility as a polling place. Of the 19 voting precincts in Cassia County eight are churches and it has always gone very smoothly.
- f) Following the discussion, the Board determined to let stand their motion to accept that change of polling location for the Declo Precinct.
- 3) 9:24 AM ADJOURNMENT

APPROVED:

/s/

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Dennis Crane, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

/s/

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Joseph W. Larsen, Clerk of the Board