



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**February 21, 2012**

The Cassia County Board of Commissioners met this day with Chairman Dennis Crane, Paul Christensen and Bob Kunau, Board Members; Alfred E. Barrus, Prosecuting Attorney; Joseph W. Larsen, Clerk of the Board, and Kerry D. McMurray, County Administrator, present.

**PREVIOUS WEEK'S MINUTES**

The Minutes for February 13, 2012, were discussed. A motion was made and seconded to approve. Roll call vote was unanimous with Commissioner Kunau, Commissioner Christensen and Chairman Crane all voting yea.

**ADDITION TO AGENDA**

A Gateway meeting regarding Sage Grouse was held on Friday, February 17, 2012, in Boise. Information from that meeting came too late to be included on the posted agenda.

Election related information provided by Elections Deputy Clerk, Theresa Forthun, to Clerk Larsen from a meeting held in Idaho Falls on Thursday and Friday, February 16-17, 2012. Information from that meeting came too late to be included on the posted agenda.

County Building and Road matters were not included from the ongoing agenda items where this is a special meeting. Chairman Crane indicated that emails, phone calls, and building problems that needed to be addressed occurred after the public posting of the agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kunau to add said items to the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Christensen, followed by a unanimous yea vote.

**GATEWAY WEST UPDATE REGARDING SAGE GROUSE**

Commissioner Kunau attended a Gateway West Meeting on Friday in Boise, which was also attended by Task Force members Brent Stoker, Doug Pickett, Kent Searle, and Vaughn Gibby. Kunau reported that Western Watershed had representation there in force and countered much of the presentation of the BLM. A number scoring system was used by the BLM to present data regarding the impact of the proposed project to Sage Grouse. There was no consensus on the matter and the plan did not provide for the adaptability of the Sage Grouse.

**ELECTION MEETING UPDATE**

Elections Deputy Clerk, Theresa Forthun attended a meeting with the Secretary of State's Office on Thursday in Idaho Falls regarding changes in election laws and procedures. Due to the timing constraints for the Board to set precinct boundary changes in time for party affiliate committee persons to file for election between February 27, 2012, and March 9, 2012, Clerk Larsen recommended that the Board postpone County precinct changes. Larsen did recommend that cleaning up the precinct boundaries in the Burley taxing district precincts could be done in a timely fashion and would not adversely affect those desiring to file for party precinct committee person positions. There are no statutory requirements to make changes according to the Secretary

of State's office. Chairman Crane asked Clerk Larsen to follow up with GIS Department mapper, Todd Quast regarding those changes.

### **COUNTY BUILDING MATTERS**

Administrator McMurray reviewed an email from Steve Simmons, president of LCA Architects. Simmons requested to set up a time on Monday, February 27, 2012, to go over his findings and prospective courtroom layouts so the judges and others can see any potential problems they may be faced with. Some concern had been expressed regarding the original space layout for long and narrow courtrooms and LCA will come up with proposals for consideration. Considerations that were pointed out were that no space was allocated for a court reporter office. LCA will present a layout with that and other potential concerns in mind once presented.

McMurray indicated that there have been roof problems at the Law Enforcement Building with recent rain. Bids are currently being sought for roof repair or replacement which will come out of the Sheriff's budget. Building Maintenance Supervisor Craig Munoz has patched areas of concern to temporarily correct immediate needs.

### **COUNTY ROAD MATTERS**

Chairman Crane has communicated with the Box Elder County Road Supervisor regarding rock haulers coming out of the Yost rock quarry area. Crane advised them to be in touch with our County Road and Bridge Supervisor, Sam Adams. He also indicated that there was a need for a correlation meeting with Box Elder County to go over our agreement for maintenance of that road.

Crane also indicated that Paul Ward is retiring from the Raft River Flood District. Elba resident, Carl Boden has been selected to take his place.

### **COUNTY MEETING DISCUSSION**

Chairman Crane suggested that we consider having Commissioner Meetings in rural parts of the County such as Oakley, Elba, Almo, Albion, Jackson and Malta. Christensen asked about actions that need to take place in Commissioner's Chambers. Crane talked about doing business here and then to recess the Board Meeting to go to outlying areas each quarter and having elected officials attend to address any concerns of the public. Christensen suggested asking for input from elected officials at department head meeting on February 27, 2012. The Board also discussed the possibility of holding meetings once a month in the evenings to allow members of the public to attend that may be unable to attend during the day. Prosecuting Attorney Al Barrus and Administrator McMurray discussed statutes detailing when meetings need to be held such as the minimum requirement of holding a Board Meeting on the second Monday of each month. Christensen discussed the possibilities of holding budget meetings to facilitate more public involvement. McMurray suggested that there could be public notice of a Special Board Meeting. The Board could proceed with official actions during regular meeting and then adjourn to that Special Board Meeting afterwards.

### **CALENDAR**

The Board reviewed the calendar.

1. Wed 1:00 p.m. MISTI's line in Pocatello regarding Gateway West
2. Hospital Board meeting at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 22, 2012.
3. Republican Central Committee Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, February 23, 2012, at the

Juvenile Courtroom

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The Board reviewed the following:

1. University of Idaho AgKnowledge

**COUNTY EXPENDITURES**

The Board reviewed the County's Payables Approval Report dated February 17, 2012. A motion was made and seconded to approve the report and the roll call vote was unanimous with Commissioner Kunau, Commissioner Christensen and Chairman Crane all voting yea.

CURRENT EXPENSES	104	\$16,103.23
DISTRICT COURT FUND	106	\$563.47
REVALUATION FUND	114	\$384.00
COUNTY ELECTION FUND	116	\$948.72
ASSESSOR TRUST FUND	123	\$174.36
JUSTICE FUND	130	\$10,490.86
MINI-CASSIA DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE	136	\$570.52
D.A.R.E TRUST	137	\$275.99
PHYSICAL FACILITIES FUND	144	\$395.61
ADULT MISDEMEANOR PROBATION	149	\$8,086.20
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$37,992.96</b>

**CHANGE OF STATUS**

The Board reviewed three (3) Request for Change of Status forms. The Board discussed and approved the hiring of Kraig Frank as the Snowmobile Grooming Coordinator as enumerated in Other Business of the Board.

The Board discussed the proposal from Adult Misdemeanor Probation regarding the hiring of Enrica Molina as a part time UA Tech and an increase in pay for Ned Carter in that department. Commissioner Christensen expressed concern about waiting to see if there is legislation for a division between adult and juvenile probation. Clerk Larsen expressed concern about equalization of rate of pay for employees of the County based on length of time of employment, needed skills for the job, and experience as a consideration. Chairman Crane asked that Adult Misdemeanor Probation Supervisor Amber Prewitt present the reasoning for increase of pay for Carter. Prewitt indicated that he would be supervising Molina and other UA Techs and he was an excellent employee. Prosecutor Barrus asked if there had been improvement in income and collections in her department to which she responded that collections were better. Following a review of the rate of pay for all County employees, the Board determined that it would be appropriate to approve said requests. Commissioner Christensen indicated that considerations for efficiency need to be included with these decisions and Larsen indicated the external audit will show some information regarding efficiency. It was moved and seconded to approve the changes of status and roll call vote was unanimous with Commissioner Kunau, Commissioner Christensen and Chairman Crane all voting yea.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Following review, the Board approved nine (9) CSI Residency Applications. A motion was made and seconded to approve said applications followed by a roll call vote with Chairman Crane, Commissioner Christensen, and Commissioner Kunau all voting yea.
2. The Board reviewed and approved County expenditures.
3. The Board had no Board of Equalization matters today.
4. The Board reviewed a request for funds from the South Central Community Action Partnership. Commissioner Kunau read a letter from them regarding that request. There has been \$2000.00 for the past four fiscal years. The Board discussed the request and Commissioner Christensen expressed concern about enhancing the amount at this time.
5. The Board discussed Snowmobile Advisory Board matters. That Board held a monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 2012. Commissioner Kunau reported that no money had been spent on grooming due to the lack of snow. They had used maintenance money to do renovation of their storage building. Kunau reported that he had talked to John Burrows regarding Howell Canyon grooming and indicated that they didn't want compensation until the end of year. They had only groomed trails 3 or 4 times so far this year and that everything was working well. Kunau also presented a Change of Status for a Grooming Coordinator. Terry Spann resigned that position and Kraig Franks will take over as Grooming Coordinator which pays \$500.00 per month according to the bylaws in addition to grooming at the hourly rate when time exceeds six (6) hours. Commissioner Kunau made a motion to accept said change of status, seconded by Commissioner Christensen, followed by a unanimous yea vote.
6. The Board discussed County road matters. Chairman Crane indicated that the road crew was currently grading in the Almo and Elba area. He indicated that school bus routes are the first priority. He also indicated that there are 109 miles of road used to get students to and from school (17 miles is asphalt and the rest is gravel). An Idaho Department of Water Resources permit has been issued for the Narrows Bridge. Work there can continue. Following Crane's inquiry, it was determined that the County had not yet received official correspondence from the Idaho Transportation Department regarding the Elba-Almo spur decision.
7. The Board discussed the Burley Highway District Howell Canyon maintenance expense reports. Some plowing and sanding has taken place in Howell Canyon during this winter. It was pointed out that the Feds built the road but the County is required to maintain it.
8. The Board reviewed the Idaho State Department of Agriculture MOU on Invasive Species Check Stations. Prosecuting Attorney Al Barrus indicated that the County had asked for a lot of changes, most of which were made but it lacked desired meaningful changes. Barrus asked that it be put on a later Board agenda to discuss this when Weed and Pest Control Supervisor Gordon Edwards could be present. He indicated that individuals employed by the County would earn \$11.00 an hour with initial training for just a summer job with this project. It wouldn't fit as a summer job for college students due to the time requirement. Further discussion is needed to see if this is what the County really wants to do.
9. The Board discussed the Sawtooth National Forest proposed amendment to the Forest Plan. It was pointed out that there is still time to submit comments. It was decided that Commissioner Christensen would discuss the matter with IAC Policy Analyst, Seth Grigg to determine the impact of this amendment.

10. The Board reviewed Orders for Payment of Conflict Attorney fees. Auditor Larsen indicated that such Orders for Payment should be referred to the Auditor's Office for processing and subsequent approval by the Board.
11. The Board reviewed the Idaho Transportation Department Project Record Summary.
12. The Board reviewed and ratified the purchase of water heater parts for the Mini-Cassia Criminal Justice Center. The hot water system's ignition modules and water tempering valve that controls all the hot water had failed. The cost for the ignition module is \$996.00 and the valve replacement is \$3837.00. Commissioner Kunau made a motion to ratify said purchases, seconded by Commissioner Christensen, followed by a unanimous yeas vote.
13. The Board executed letters of intended funding for both the East and West Cassia Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Barring unforeseen emergencies, the Board expressed intention of raising the County's contribution from \$2500.00 to \$3000.00. It was indicated that the State may match funding. It was expected that during budget time the Board would make the final determination on that funding.
14. The Board considered a contract with St. Luke's Canyon View as proposed by the Twin Falls County Commissioners. The Board determined to hold that item over to next week's Board meeting to review a copy of that contract.

**LUNCH**

At 12:00 p.m. the Board departed for lunch at Perkins Restaurant where a working lunch was held a property owner and members of the Gateway West Task Force to discuss minor changes in one of the proposed alternate routes.

**RECESS**

Meeting was recessed until 9:00 a.m., Monday, February 27, 2012.

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

Jay Lenkersdorfer, Weekly News Journal; Laurie Welch, The Times News; Renee Wells, The Voice.

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph W. Larsen  
*Clerk of the Board*

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Dennis Crane  
*Chairman of the Board*