



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**January 24, 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.

**DESIGN ISSUES OF JUSTICE CENTER – LCA ARCHITECTS**

Steve Simmons, LCA Architects President, was present to report to the Board regarding visits with various future users of the new Cassia County Justice Center. He discussed the process of addressing the needs for housing necessary judicial functions of that proposed facility. He discussed the formation of a master plan and working with portions of that as necessary to fit within the budget of the County. He also presented the prospects of implementing the master plan in phases.

Commissioner Christensen talked of the possible natural expansion at some time in the future to the north of the existing facility.

Chairman Crane asked Simmons what he initially was proposing to be considered for the building. He explained it included an appropriate entry vestibule, a cuing area for security, a magnetometer or x-ray screening area, and a general conference room. The facility would be fronted by the courts which would include public restrooms, support space for clerks, judge's chambers, clerk's rest room, break room, litigation and support room, victim witness room, attorney-client room, visiting room near holding area for attorney to consult with inmate. He expressed the need to house 10 clerks with room for expansion for 12 clerks and appropriate storage for court introduced evidence, an area for offices of the prosecutor. Simmons presented the need for an area for building support which would include electrical, custodial, storage, and appropriate housing for information technology equipment. He discussed secure fencing in the area directly north of the facility.

Commissioner Christensen talked of the possibility of 3 courtrooms with room to expand north and add a fourth courtroom. Clerk Larsen discussed the possibility as presented by Judge Crabtree of appropriate sizing of the courtrooms to facilitate 4 courtrooms with some having multiple uses. Prosecutor Barrus hadn't ever seen a situation where two jury trials were held at one time. Larsen indicated that scheduling generally precludes that with the constraints of the current court facilities. It was discussed that specialty courts would demand more rooms but could be facilitated with smaller rooms.

Commissioners Kunau and Christensen recommended holding doors to the north for entry where prevailing winds were from the west.

Simmons suggested that expansion to the west of the facility would necessitate footings and structure which would increase costs.

Simmons expressed gratitude to Administrator McMurray and Commissioner Kunau for their assistance in meeting with various groups throughout the day. He expressed the need to see the big picture with the funds available and implementation of compromise as necessary. A

separate entrance on the south was discussed for the prosecutor's office and the need for such was presented by Prosecutor Barrus.

Commissioner Christensen inquired when the Board would meet again with the architects and Simmons indicated it would be in a couple of weeks. Administrator McMurray indicated that the environmental report should be forthcoming sometime this week.

**REDISTRICTING ISSUES**

The Board discussed the current status of redistricting efforts. Clerk Larsen received communication from Kristine Glascock, Clerk of the Board of Commissioners in Twin Falls County. She had provided a proposed redistricting map earlier that had been provided by Twin Falls County and solicited the support of that map. The Board discussed potential positive and negative ramifications of that proposed map. Citizen Jared Larsen, who had testified earlier in proposing what would meet the requirements of the redistricting committee and the needs of Cassia County joined the conversation by phone. He discussed the population constraints for each designated districts and the desire of the Supreme Court to avoid splitting counties as much as possible. Concern was expressed that the proposed map joining Jerome County with Cassia County had just a small area where the two counties bordered each other. Also, potential diluting of local representation could be a concern. It was decided by the Board to take endorsement of the Twin Falls County map under advisement as additional information that needs to be considered comes forward.

**RECESS**

Meeting was recessed until 9:00 a.m., Monday, January 30, 2012.

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

Renee Wells – The Voice; Laurie Welch – The Times News; Jared Larsen (by phone) – Citizen

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

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Joseph W. Larsen, Clerk of the Board

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Dennis Crane, Chairman of the Board