



# Cassia County Board of Commissioners

*Commissioner Chambers*

*1459 Overland Ave.*

*Burley, ID 83318*

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

***Board Chairman:***

*Dennis Crane*

***Phone:*** (208) 878-7302

***Fax:*** (208) 878-9109

***Board Members:***

*Paul Christensen (District #1) ~ [pchristensen@cassiacounty.org](mailto:pchristensen@cassiacounty.org)*

*Bob Kunau (District #2) ~ [bob.kunau@cassiacounty.org](mailto:bob.kunau@cassiacounty.org)*

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

Thursday, November 1, 2012

The Board of Cassia County Commissioners met in a special session on Thursday, November 1, 2012 at 12:45 p.m. in the Commissioner Chambers of the Cassia County Courthouse. The Board then convened at 1:00 p.m. at the Burley City Council Chambers for a meeting with the Gateway Task Force.

THOSE PRESENT:	County Commissioners:	Dennis Crane, Chairman Paul Christensen Bob Kunau
	Clerk of the Board:	Joseph W. Larsen
	County Administrator:	Kerry D. McMurray

1) 12:45 PM REVIEW AND APPROVE AMENDED L2 LEVY COMPUTATIONS

- a) Larsen presented for review and approval of the Board computational changes as approved by the Idaho State Tax Commission Senior Research Analyst, Gary F. Houde.
- b) The Auditor's Office submitted an L-1 form (Certification of County Levies) and L-2 forms (Dollar Certification of Budget Request to Board of County Commissioners) to the State Tax Commission on September 21, 2012.
- c) A State Tax Commission letter dated October 30, 2012, approved the amended budget and levies for the 2012 property tax collection for the City of Burley and the Cassia School District #151 only.

**12:48 AM**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER CHRISTENSEN MOVED TO APPROVE COMPUTED AMENDMENTS FOR THE 2012 PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION FOR THE CITY OF BURLEY AND THE CASSIA SCHOOL DISTRICT AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER KUNAU SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2) 1:00 PM MEETING WITH THE GATEWAY TASK FORCE AT THE CITY OF BURLEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THOSE PRESENT: (as attached to the minutes)

- a) Chairman Crane
  - i) Crane conducted the meeting, made introductions, and asked Task Force Chairman Brent Stoker to present concerns to those present.

**CASSIA COUNTY COMMISSION**

**SPECIAL SESSION**

**Thursday, November 1, 2012**

- b) Brent Stoker
  - i) Stoker indicated that this is the fourth year since announcements were made regarding the proposed Gateway West transmission line.
  - ii) It is projected that the project will not take place until sometime between 2018 and 2024.
  - iii) Stoker informed the Task Force that he had recently been made aware of another project for an additional power line that is set to be announced for this coming spring.
  - iv) The Task Force's desire is to make the Board aware of their recommendations for the consideration of underground technology for electricity transmission which is currently not in the EIS.
- c) Kerry and Doreen McMurray
  - i) McMurray went over points of interest in the implementation of underground power lines learned at two different seminar presentations he and his wife Doreen attended.
  - ii) Cost comparison for implementation of underground power transmission as opposed to above ground power lines has continued to narrow as time passes.
  - iii) A mix of overhead and underground power lines as well as AC and DC is a possibility.
  - iv) Long term economic loss attributed to transmission lines going across agricultural land could be used as funding to mitigate costs of underground implementation.
  - v) McMurray concluded that underground transmission in existing right-of-ways is a viable option that should be considered.
- d) Jeff Steele – BLM
  - i) Steele would not advocate one route or another on behalf of BLM but acknowledged that a lot had changed over the past few years.
- e) Blaine Newman – BLM/Power County
  - i) Newman talked of the proposals in Power County and how that each one was presented as a result of the affects to both public and private lands.
- f) Doug Balfour
  - i) Balfour went over preliminary comments with the Task Force and the Board he had prepared for the EIS.
  - ii) He indicated that County restrictions and comprehensive plans had largely been ignored and that transmission lines should only be placed on private land when there are no other places to go.
  - iii) A uniform system in assessing sage grouse habitat has never been utilized and that seems to be the only reason lines have been proposed on private land.
  - iv) Comments should include how each proposed route affects each individual farmer or landowner as well as each County as cooperating agencies.
- g) Brent Stoker
  - i) Comments were received from each Task Force member.
- h) Chairman Crane
  - i) Crane presented that it would be appropriate to have Gateway Task Force attorney, Doug Balfour prepare an official opinion on behalf of the Task Force.
  - ii) Crane pointed out that the Gateway Task Force was formed for the voices of those who may be impacted to be heard beyond that of just the Board of Commissioners.
  - iii) Concepts to be included in the opinion to include
    - (1) Pinch point portion of the proposed route
    - (2) Siting authority of the County

- (3) Viability of underground DC power transmission
  - i) Power County Commissioner Vicki Meadows
    - i) Meadows indicated that Power County's Task Force needs to put together comments and then explore an ordinance that both Power and Cassia County could adopt.

**2:30 PM**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER KUNAU MOVED TO APPROVE COMMENTS AND OPINIONS PROPOSED ON BEHALF OF THE TASK FORCE BY TASK FORCE ATTORNEY DOUG BALFOUR. CHAIRMAN CRANE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3) 2:32 PM ADJOURNMENT

APPROVED:

*/s/* \_\_\_\_\_

Dennis Crane, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

*/s/* \_\_\_\_\_

Joseph W. Larsen, Clerk of the Board