

FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

November 9, 2009

Present for the meeting were Commissioners Paul Romrell, Skip Hurt, and Lee Miller.

Also attended by: Clerk Abbie Mace, Deputy Clerk Jody Flores, Prosecuting Attorney Joette Lookabaugh, Treasurer Patricia McCoy, Sherriff Len Humphries, and Assessor Kathy Thompson

Commissioner Romrell opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

Ms. McCoy offered the opening prayer.

Ms. Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Elected Officials

Assessor Kathy Thompson:

Ms. Thompson stated that it has been very quiet in her office. Everyone is working on appraisals. The Board of Tax Appeals begins on Friday. Her staff will be attending an appraisal class next week. Other counties will also be attending – it will be held in the annex building.

Treasurer Patricia McCoy:

Ms. McCoy stated that her office is working on tax notices. Brief discussion was held on the mail schedule for the courthouse. Planning & building has opted out of participating.

Sherriff Len Humphries:

Sheriff Humphries stated that they have nine inmates in custody. They are updating hold up procedures for banks etc. They will incorporate these procedures with the city police department as well. He will be attending a Critical Incident Protocol meeting in Idaho Falls at the Ameritel with other sheriff's from southeast Idaho. 911 Inc. will be here Wednesday for their inspection. Discussion was held regarding the 911 system.

Prosecuting Attorney Joette Lookabaugh:

Ms. Lookabaugh stated that her office has been very busy. The city's cutback in law enforcement is affecting her office. They do not have the manpower to investigate and follow up on reports – they are understaffed. Most of the felonies are being investigated by the County. Ms. Lookabaugh read her news release regarding Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Blake Hall for the record.

Commissioner Skip Hurt:

Commissioner Hurt provided an update on the progress of the EMS building in Island Park. He spoke with Blair Jones – his wife went in for a liver transplant and is now home and doing well. The fuel station should be completed sometime this week. The sheriff's evidence storage is complete except for the doors.

Commissioner LeRoy Miller:

Justin Wickham was hired as the new fleet manager – he begins today. He will be attending a RAC meeting tomorrow in Idaho Falls. He will also be meeting with the Fire Department on the weed building. A public hearing will need to held – an appraisal will be needed before public hearing. Commissioner Miller questioned if we could hold a public hearing in conjunction with the Fire Department. Ms. Lookabaugh stated that it would be okay to do so.

Clerk Abbie Mace:

Clerk Mace provided a brief overview of the Sixth District Elected Officials meeting held in Driggs last week. Tony Poinelli for IAC was a speaker. They also discussed the census – a mock form was provided. They will not be sending census forms to PO Boxes. This will need to be addressed with those cities that only have boxes. They also spoke about the \$200 million revenue shortfall for the state. They are anticipating a 10-12% decrease in Sales Tax Revenue from last year. Brief overview was given on upcoming legislation. She encouraged everyone to be prudent in with their budgets. The county is okay, but we need to be careful. CAMP was also discussed – it is not moving forward very quickly. It looks like the counties will play a role in the collection of these fees. Clerk Mace has also been working on balancing the Meritain account.

Commissioner Paul Romrell:

Because of the shortfalls from the state, it looks like there will be more program cuts and not tax increases. Five County Detention continues to be strong. They are receiving their sixteenth paying customer sometime this week. This brings approximately \$1 million dollars in revenue a year for the facility. Last week was somewhat slow – having some contact with taxpayers on various issues. Commissioner Romrell gave kudos to Commissioner Hurt and his work with the busy building schedule.

Commissioner Romrell read a letter that was received from the Department of Agriculture thanking the county and Bryce Fowler for their efforts and work regarding invasive species.

IT Administrator Lisa Turner RE: Fairpoint and Decision One Contracts

Ms. Turner presented two contracts for review and approval. The first contract was with ML Services for maintenance on the AS400 for \$1,667.52. Last year we paid \$2,500 for the maintenance on the AS400. Commissioner Hurt made a motion to approve and sign the contract with ML Services for the maintenance on the AS400 in the amount of \$1,667.52. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all Commissioners voting in favor.

Ms. Turner also presented a contract with Fairpoint Communications. This would be for our analog lines, internet, and telephone system. The analog portion will be a year long contract with the other two being five years. This new contract will save the county \$1000 per month. Commissioner Miller made a motion to approve and sign the contract with Fairpoint Communications. Commissioner Hurt seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all Commissioners voting in favor.

They had a suggestion for when departments request additional phone lines. In the past, when a department needed the additional lines, they would call Fairpoint themselves. They would like to be involved in this process in the future. The Board instructed Ms. Turner to develop a policy.

Landlines at the studmill were discussed. The Board and IT decided to have those who are out there to utilize their cell phones until the new phone system is implemented.

Discussion on magnetic readers for entry into the courthouse were discussed. Emergency Management Coordinator Keith Richey felt like he could find grants to help fund this. The Board approved to move forward with getting bids.

EMS Director Bob Foster RE: Department Report

Discussion was held regarding compensation for Dr. Curtis who we license our ambulances thru. Commissioner Hurt made a motion to compensate Dr. Curtis \$1500 per year to be paid as one

payment annually. This will be taken from the miscellaneous line of each EMS unit. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full roll call vote was heard with all Commissioners voting in favor. Discussion was held regarding sandrail storage. He thinks that we can store it across the street if things are moved around.

Mr. Foster would like to hire an administrative assistant – especially during training season, he cannot do it all. The Board approved this.

Mr. Foster provided a brief overview of the report given to the Board. A handout was given and will be attached for the record.

Executive Session IC67-2345(b)

Commissioner Romrell made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to IC 67-2345 (b) to consider the evaluation, dismissal, or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent or public school student at 10:55 a.m. Commissioner Hurt seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioner Romrell voting "I", Commissioner Hurt voting "I", and Commissioner Miller voting "I". Commissioner Romrell declared the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Lloyd Griffel & Gretta Miller RE: Blanchard Herd District

Mr. Griffel appeared before the Board because he would like to see the law changed and the Blanchard Herd District dissolved or amended.

Gretta Miller provided a brief overview of the situation and why this issue arose between her and Mr. Griffel. In November of last year, hunters had pushed some elk thru her fence and as a result her cattle got out and damaged Mr. Griffel's property. A claim was submitted to Ms. Miller's insurance and the claim was denied because it was found that this area is open range October 16th thru May 17th and cattle may be at large during this time. No dollar amount was submitted for the damages.

Mr. Griffel also presented a petition with approximately fifty signatures in favor of changing this herd district. Ms. Lookabaugh stated that those who signed the petition must have 50% land ownership within that district. Clerk Mace stated that she will have her office check the validity of these signatures. The Board would like more time on this matter. They will put it on the agenda for next week's Commissioner meeting.

Mayor Garth Rose & Woody Anderson RE: Canal Bridge on 12th Street

Mayor Rose stated that they have come before the Board to talk about the canal bridge on 12th Street. The city has the opportunity to apply for \$100,000 in grants to be used toward this bridge – this is the third time they have applied for these funds. The proposed bridge would be 36ft wide X 30ft and correction to the irrigation check. It would cost approximately \$130,000 to construct the bridge. The grant would cover \$100,000 leaving \$30,000 remaining – they are asking if the county would be willing to participate and share in the remaining balance. Commissioner Romrell questioned how the canal company felt about this because in the past they have not been very receptive on this proposal. Mr. Anderson stated that they have not really spoken with them, but what little discussion had occurred had been positive.

Commissioner Hurt made a motion to help the city with soft costs on the 12th street canal bridge up to \$15,000. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all Commissioners voting in favor.

Social Services Director Debbie Adams RE: Executive Session IC67-2345(d)

Commissioner Romrell made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to IC 67-2345 (d) to consider records that are exempt from disclosure as provided in chapter 3, title 9, Idaho code at 1:08 p.m. Commissioner Hurt seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioner Romrell voting "I", Commissioner Hurt voting "I", and Commissioner Miller voting "I". Commissioner Romrell declared the meeting 1:14 p.m.

Commissioners signed two new liens and two releases of lien.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to deny cases #M2010-01 and #M2009-49. Commissioner Hurt seconded the motion. A full roll call voice was heard with all Commissioners voting in favor.

Prosecuting Attorney Joette Lookabaugh RE: Resolution 2010-02 Defining Equivalent Dwelling Unit / Resolution 2010-03 Social Services Destruction of Records

Ms. Lookabaugh presented these resolutions for review and approval. Discussion was held regarding the proposed resolution 2010-02 Defining Equivalent Dwelling Unit. Commissioner Romrell questioned how hard it would be to add a paragraph defining penalty. Ms. Lookabaugh stated that portion would be within the sewer ordinance and that this resolution gives the county authority to begin enforcement. Clerk Mace stated that the sewer ordinance needs to be thru the public hearing process and approved before this resolution can be approved because this resolution references the sewer ordinance. We will do both the sewer ordinance and this proposed resolution at the same time. Because of this, the proposed Resolution 2010-03 will be re-numbered to be Resolution 2010-02.

Commissioner Hurt made a motion to approve Resolution 2010-02 Destruction of Social Service Records. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all Commissioners voting in favor.

Public Works Director Marla Vik RE: Department Report

Ms. Vik brought before the Board an estimate for the concrete approach pad for the Ashton Road & Bridge shop in the amount of \$8,587 from Doug James Construction Inc. Commissioner Hurt made a motion to approve the cost for the concrete approach pad for the Ashton Road & Bridge shop in the amount of \$8,587 to Doug James Construction Inc. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full voice was heard with all Commissioners voting in favor.

Brief discussion was held regarding the pusher – it has been sold and is now a mute point.

Ms. Vik has spoken with Mike Vickers on using the funds for the improvements to the the county road on Fishermans Drive by Stephens Ranch Subdivision to purchase the zipper. He seemed open and she will know more next week. She will be in Boise the next couple of days at an IAC Road & Bridge Supervisors Conference.

A brief update was given on the bridges.

Ms. Vik introduced Justin Wickam who is the new fleet manager. They are currently looking at software to utilize.

Commissioner Hurt would like a complete move out of the old building by December 1st. Discussion was held regarding the Island Park Road & Bridge position.

Sara Reinke & Nancy Bergman RE: Ashton Community Recycling

Ms. Reinke stated that this began in discussion held with the Chamber of Commerce and the Revitalization Committee in Ashton. They are aware of some grants that are available to help with the purchase of recycling bins. The problem they have in their community is that there is no expertise in writing grants. They questioned the Board on the possibility of them helping with the transportation of the bins to the landfill. The Board is supportive of the recycling effort in their community. Commissioner Romrell questioned on the possibility of the county purchasing the bins – and possibly we could mobilize the bins from community to community. The Board would rather do this than go thru the grant process. This issue will be put on the agenda for the Commissioners meeting next week.

Planning & Building Administrator Kurt Hibbert RE: Department Report

Discussion was held regarding the approval of the final plat for the Parker Reef Subdivision. Mr. Hibbert presented a map and the site investigative report. There had been environmental issues with this site – Rocky Mountain Environmental has signed off on this, but DEQ has not. Commissioner Hurt stated that he would like to see that the Fish & Game Department approve of the fences and that the easement with the BLM is taken care of. The Board would like to have full disclosure to buyers with a copy of the environmental report attached to the final plat. This will be scheduled for next Monday's Commissioners meeting.

Discussion was held on the storage building being built by David Crapo. Commissioner Romrell questioned Mr. Hibbert on why the permits were so costly for these types of projects. There is a table that is used to calculate these and Mr. Hibbert felt that it was accurate.

Discussion was held regarding the individual appendixes for the Development Code going to individual hearings. Commissioner Hurt stated that he would like to see the Development Code go thru at one time and feels that people cannot see the accumulative effect of the code when it is broke out into the individual appendixes. Commissioner Romrell questioned on how realistic it would be to have the Development Code in its entirety by the first of the year. Could we speed up the process by holding two hearing a month? Mr. Hibbert will talk with the Planning & Zoning Commission. Commissioner Romrell questioned again on what is a realistic date to have this done. Mr. Hibbert stated that they could have a draft form to the Board by the end of the month.

Spring Creek Manor – Eileen Mockli RE: Rate on Senior Van

Ms. Mockli came before the Board to talk about the rate increase on the senior van. She stated that the van is very important to their seniors. They have used it to go to the elk refuge, quilt shows, and to see the fall leaves etc. They have seen a total change in attitude in her building because of this. Ms. Mockli stated that they cannot afford the increase in the rate and if they cannot reach some kind of compromise with the Board on this rate, they will have to see this go away. Commissioner Romrell stated that the reason was to keep up with the maintenance costs etc. Scheduling may become an issue in the summer months.

Commissioner Hurt made a motion to return the rate of the senior van to \$0.35 per mile. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all Commissioners voting in favor.

Parks & Recreation Director Tamra Cikaitoga RE: Department Report

Ms. Cikaitoga presented a contract with Bank of Idaho on the groomer shed. Commissioner Hurt made a motion to sign and approve the contract with the Bank of Idaho for the groomer shed. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full roll call vote was heard with all Commissioners voting in favor.

Discussion was held regarding letters of support for the Recreation Bridge. The Board approved to do this. She will write the letter and send to Deputy Clerk Jody Flores who will print them out for signature at the next meeting.

Amended Agenda Items

Commissioner Hurt made a motion to amend the agenda to include:

- Used Snow Pusher
- 10:50 Executive Session IC67-2345(b) Personnel
- Law Enforcement (included with Mayor Garth Rose)
- CAT Board Nomination

Commissioner Romrell seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all Commissioners voting in favor.

Items to Discuss

Commissioner Romrell made a motion to approve the liquor license for Marshall Wilson / Silver Horseshoe. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all Commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Romrell made a motion to approve the junior college applications. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full roll call vote was heard with all Commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Romrell made a motion to approve and sign the Macks Inn and Last Chance Sewer LID releases. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full roll call voice was heard with all Commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Romrell made a motion to nominate Roger Christensen to serve as the District 6 representative on the Catastrophic Health Care Cost Program Board. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full roll call vote was heard with all Commissioners voting in favor.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

Paul Romrell, Chairman
Fremont County Commission

Attest: _____
Abbie Mace, Clerk