

## FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONER SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Joint Meeting with St. Anthony City Council

St. Anthony City Building

September 02, 2009

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

**Also attended by:** Deputy Clerk Jody Flores, Prosecuting Attorney Joette Lookabaugh, Sheriff Len Humphries, St. Anthony Mayor Garth Rose, Clerk Patty Parkinson, City Councilman Bryan Fullmer, City Councilwoman Elva Powell, City Councilman Bryant Biorn, City Attorney Bill Forsberg, City Councilman Woody Anderson

Mayor Garth Rose opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance. Mayor Rose asked the Board of Commissioners for any updates on the county.

### COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Paul Romrell stated that this budget year the county elected not to implement the 3% property tax increase allowed to the counties and that they actually decreased property taxes by 1%. They held a flat employee salary scale and each department cut 5% non-salary items from their budgets. The county has also experienced an aggressive building season with two buildings completed for the road and bridge and weed departments. Updates were given on the other building projects for the county. All of these projects have been completed without property tax monies. They have also awarded five of seven canal bridges that had been open for bid. A new sprinkler system will be installed at the courthouse next Tuesday by Darrin Thompson. The county received a grant to complete a chipseal project on the Teton Highway.

Commissioner Skip Hurt stated that the county has two small pieces of property that they would like to give to St. Anthony. The first is the small piece of property at the ball diamonds and the second is the small grassy, triangle piece by Trost Feed & Seed. A public hearing will need to be held as it going from one public entity to another.

Commissioner LeRoy Miller stated that they received \$10,000 from the LDS church to renovate the bleachers on the west side at the fairgrounds. They have also applied for a grant to make ADA improvements to the bleachers as well. They now have a golf course committee and they have seen increased play this year. They are also in the process of forming a recreation committee in Island Park.

Commissioner Romrell stated that the county is in a good position and is financially solid. Brief discussion and overview was held regarding PILT payments and Secure Rural School Title II & Title III funds.

Prosecuting Attorney Joette Lookabaugh stated that she has been very busy in her office. Indications show that crimes against persons have reduced while drug arrests have increased. This is due to more police work and prosecution. She is currently working 40 felonies and 30-40 misdemeanors. Sheriff Humphries stated that they have been very busy as well.

City Councilman Brian Fullmer thanked the Board for their hard work and stand on not raising taxes.

Discussion was held on the officer positions that were cut from the city budget and law enforcement coverage during those times. Commissioner Romrell stated that there would be no extra response from the county level, but would do so if capable. Mayor Rose indicated that the city police chief indicated that officers would be on-call during the downtime, but response time may be slower. Both the City Council and the Commissioners were clear on the coverage and understands the issues of the officers being on call.

Councilman Bryan Fullmer questioned Commissioner Miller on how the census committee was progressing. Commissioner Miller stated that the sub-committees were formed and going. There is a need to talk it up in the communities and educate citizens on the benefits that are received by the county and the cities when they participate. Brief discussion was held.

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

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Paul Romrell, Chairman  
Fremont County Commission

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jody Flores, Deputy Clerk