

FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
April 5, 2010

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

Also attended by: Clerk Abbie Mace, Deputy Clerk Cathy Conger, Sheriff Len Humphries, Assessor Kathy Thompson, Treasurer Patricia McCoy, Juvenile Probation Director Darin Burrell, IT Administrator Lisa Turner, Emergency Management Director Keith Richey, EMS Director Bob Foster, Parks & Recreation Director Tamra Cikaitoga, Public Works Director Marla Vik, Island Park Sewer Supervisor Dan Lostutter, Extension Office 4-H Director Dana Miller, 5-County Detention Administrator Nicky Chavez, Planning and Building Administrator Kurt Hibbert, and Weed Supervisor Bryce Fowler

Commissioner Romrell called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

Darren Burrell offered an opening prayer.
Dana Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Elected Officials & Department Heads

Commissioner Paul Romrell – Discussed budgets for all departments. He informed the department heads what has already been spent on each department's budget. Interest income was higher than what was budgeted. New construction will be about 17 million compared to 60 million last year. This will be a huge loss. Unemployment and workman's comp is expected to double. Medical insurance is expected to be higher. \$200,000 cost increase overall is expected. We have \$220,000 in reserves plus we are allowed to take a 3% increase every year. Department heads and elected officials have the discretion on how they will spend their budget. Job evaluations are becoming more important to have in place. PERSI is also expected to be increased. There could potentially be a tax increase in our medical benefit plan.

Planning and Building Administrator Kurt Hibbert – We feel pretty good about what is going on financially. Building permits are ahead a little bit. Inspectors are finishing work from last year. There is \$45,000 in Planning & Zoning.

Sheriff Len Humphries – He gave the commissioners the boat safety grant application between Fremont County and the Parks and Rec program. Ms. Cikaitoga expressed concern over not being able to match the amount that they are asking for. The agreement will be reviewed next week. Clerk Mace, Ms. Cikaitoga and Sheriff Humphries will review this and get clarification on the match amount during the week. He discussed the work camp letter. Sand Hills have been stocked with the sandrail and four wheelers. Funding for the resource officer from the schools has been cut. Sheriff Humphries would like to continue with the resource officer out of his own budget and resources. He appreciates the merit raise approach. They have 17 inmates in county custody as of today.

Public Works Director Marla Vik – We've completed the first round of canal bridges. The canal companies were cooperative. They would like to do four bridges next year and than one or two a year after that. The design for Stone Bridge could potentially be done by this year. Fish Creek

Road rebuild is a project for this year, fixing pot holes, working on other bridges. Seal coating needs to be a higher budget. The recycling program in Ashton has changed their grand opening to Friday at noon. Commissioners will be attending. They hope to do some building in Island Park. Landfill folks need to be commended for being financially conscientious. Ms. Vik is fine with the budget bucket approach. Commissioners agreed that each department can devise evaluations specific to jobs.

Parks & recreation Director Tamra Citaitoga – They will be installing a toilet in Stone Bridge in about a week. Waterways are expected to be dry, there is no fluctuation, and revenues will be very low. Golf course has been getting ready. The Youth Golf Clinic will be in June and July. Unofficially – the funding for the recreation bridge in Island Park will be forthcoming.

5-County Detention Administrator Nicky Chavez – The last three months have been very busy. January we had a critical incident; a correction plan was developed and met. We are working with the federal agencies to increase revenue. We went to clinical training in Boise last week that was able to assist us in obtaining information regarding grants. He has completed a report to Montana officials and they were impressed with the treatment program offered. We currently have twelve federal, two state, and twelve in detention. There is a board meeting this week, Thursday at ten.

Juvenile Probation Director Darin Burrell – We are stable to busy right now. We are starting to gear up for community service. We are in a holding pattern watching what will happen at the State level with funding for specialty courts. We went to an emergency meeting for drug court last week. District 7 was required to hold back around a million dollars in drug court funds.

Weed Supervisor Bryce Fowler – We are worried about funding however we are still a little above what we were last year. Projects have to be put off due to weather. One truck and the ATV's will be fitted with GPS. We are starting to get geared up for the season. He will be coming next week to show his power point presentation. 3.2 million bugs were harvested last year for leafy spurge. He was able to get a grant for the GPS. They have one boat to be inspected and if it is positive it will be cleaned this week.

Assessor Kathy Thompson – They are working on circuit breaker and home owners exemptions. They are also working on appraisals. They are sending out a sales slip to encourage people to come report the sales price of their property. Values are staying about the same. Some of the higher end properties may end up with lower values. Assessor Thompson commended the commissioners on meeting with the employees to explain the new policy. She feels that the budget bucket approach is great.

Extension Office 4-H Director Dana Miller – Extension Agent Lance Ellis is teaching at 5 County today. Janice Stimpson is officially retiring. A party will be held on April 22nd. She has been here 39 ½ years.

IT Administrator Lisa Turner – The new server is here. They will pick a weekend and install it.

EMS Director Bob Foster – Run volume was up 40% in first quarter. The revenue is up 45% in the first months. They have received grant funding of \$40,000. The equipment is fairly good except for the training equipment. Training requirement has been expanded. We have moved equipment

out to the dunes. There is a potential sale for the Last Chance building. There is a meeting on Wednesday regarding Last Chance. He will be meeting on Monday with BLM and the Sheriff to review ownership of sandrail.

Emergency Management Director Keith Richey – He went out with the fire department for inspection of Ashton dam. They are working on EMS baskets and foam for the fire department. He will be doing the Regional Yellowstone working group for response training. He has asked Sheriff Humphries to have the deputies call him when there is storm damage.

Treasurer Patricia McCoy – Things are going well. They have sent out 80 letters of distraint out for 2006 taxes that are not paid. They will start the pending issue process soon.

Island Park Sewer Supervisor Dan Lostutter – They did not make any snow at Last Chance Sewer plant this year. They have 25 sets of plans for each of the lift station projects given out. They are getting ready for summer.

Clerk Abbie Mace – Our office has received the ballots and can now start voting absentee. Legislature passed to legislation to increase the filing deadline from 14 days to 28 days for write in candidates to declare intent to run. The new personnel policy is on the Common "O" drive. The employees can print one off if they choose to. She will be developing a sheet that will provide highlights of the policy change. All employees need to attend one of the meetings and sign the form that shows they understand the changes to the personnel policy. Meetings are on 4/9 10am, 4/14 10am & 2pm and 4/16 at 10am & 2pm. There was discussion on work camp inmates that work with the county. Be aware of boundaries. There are guidelines that we need to be following. This is for their protection and to help them succeed.

Commissioner Skip Hurt – Reported on the EMS building in Island Park. Carpet and locker contracts have gone out. Thirty days to six weeks we should be wrapped up with this building. They are very pleased with it. The goal is to have it completely outfitted at the time of the ribbon cutting. Sound system will have to be looked at but should be easily installed. We will utilize our IT department to have this installed. Recording equipment needs to be installed as well. Search and rescue building pre bid meeting was held last Tuesday. We will open the bids on that next Monday at 10:10. We are going to build another 3 bay Road & Bridge building in Island Park. Those plans are in design right now. The work in the IT room is done. Some of the projects for this summer are a courthouse lighting renovation, 1/3 of the cost will be covered by Rocky Mountain Power, redo the steps in front of the courthouse steps, there are a leak in the underground heating system, and cracks.

Commissioner LeRoy Miller – Discussed the budget. Commended the department heads and elected officials on taking their budgets personally and doing a great job. He met with the Recreation Advisor committee. Fremont County is the largest contributor for the RAC funding. Grant applications were completed and we received a 100% of what we put in. There is work being done on a kid's pond to promote youth fishing. These programs will benefit the County. Bathrooms at Island Park are being funded. The fair board meeting on April 18th to discuss putting the bleachers replacement project at the fairgrounds. We will be receiving \$10,000 from the July 24th committee for the fair board to use for the bleachers. He has a meeting on Monday with the

forest service to talk about the Forest Service Plan update. Fremont County will be hosting the summer field trip program for the RAC committee.

Commissioner Paul Romrell – Commissioner Miller has done an excellent job with the RAC program. This has been a busy year for Fremont County. Discussion was held on the revenue stream. We have spent years fighting for the safe school funding. \$750,000 was received from Secure Rural Schools funding and \$1.1 million from PILT. However where these funds can be spent is limited. Raises were not given last year however cuts were not made either. Land parcels were sold to increase revenue from there. Approximately 24% of our budget comes from property tax. Secure Rural School money decreases by 10% every year. They may have to go back to Washington DC to fight to pass this legislature. The Commissioners schedule for this week is as follows: Teton City Council meeting on Thursday, open house in Ashton Friday at noon, employee personnel meeting Friday at 10am and the Address Committee Tuesday at 7pm. The Commissioners schedule for next week is as follows: Commissioner Meeting on Monday, planning and zoning meeting on Monday at 6pm, Employee meeting on Wednesday and Friday and the Parker City meeting on Tuesday at 7pm. A commissioner meeting has been schedule for the 26th from 9am to noon. Grizzly bear meeting has been cancelled and has not been rescheduled.

Nicholas James RE: Giving roads to the County

Mr. James has ownership of roadway that is adjacent to his property which he no longer owns although he still owns the roadway. It is in the area where the big rock area is. He would like to give to the County this road. The road is within the city limits of St. Anthony. The city will need to abandon the roads. The taxes since 2005 are approximately \$1878. Value has been reduced to zero by the Assessor. Commissioner Romrell has asked the treasurer to recommend cancelling the taxes. Mr. James will return at 3pm for a final decision on taxes. The taxes are forgiven on the property. He will be deeding the property to the adjacent land owner.

Commissioner Romrell made a motion to forgive the taxes that are owed on property owned by Nicholas James in the amount of \$1878. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Keller Associates Engineering Todd Tuckett RE: Marketing

Mr. Tuckett thanked the commissioners for working with them. He introduced himself and Jason Adams. Reported that they are working on the water sampling contract and plans to have that back to them soon. Lifting stations are going well, bids are coming in. Mr. Adams has been with them for two years. Mr. Tuckett gave the commissioners copies of an ADA report. Commissioner Hurt would like water testing reports to be in a little earlier each year and Mr. Tuckett will address that for them. If billing becomes confusing please feel free to contact him for clarification.

Miscellaneous:

Commissioner Romrell made a motion to approve the amendment of minutes from February 16, 2010 to reflect changing the resolution to 2010-07. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Ms. Cikaitoga will be on the committee for the Yellowstone Winter Use committee. They discussed reason for this committee and the letter for them to sign. Commissioner Miller made a motion to sign the MOU for Yellowstone National Park Winter Use Committee and to have Ms. Cikaitoga on

the committee representing Fremont County. Commissioner Hurt seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

They discussed the Fair Housing Proclamation. Commissioner Miller made a motion to make the month of April Fair Housing Act Month. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Landfill Assurance Letter – there are three letters for signature. Commissioner Hurt made a motion to sign the Landfill Assurance letters to DEQ. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Hurt made a motion to amend the agenda to include the Clark County Stimulus Bonds. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

The Commissioners discussed the Clark County Stimulus Bonds. There is a question of what we have contributed. Mr. Richey was able to discover that we are not eligible for any money. There are eleven other counties in Idaho that are not eligible for any money.

Social Services – Debbie Adams Re: Indigent Claims

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 12:54 p.m. Commissioner Hurt seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioner Romrell voting "Aye", Commissioner Hurt voting "Aye", and Commissioner Miller voting "Aye". Commissioner Romrell declared the meeting at 1:04 p.m.

Commissioners signed one new lien.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to approve case #M2010-21, and deny cases #M2010-18, case #M2010-28, case #M2010-26. Commissioner Hurt seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Jeff Clifford RE: AFLAC Insurance Proposal

Mr. Clifford from Continental American is a part of AFLAC. They have some new plans that they would like to present to the employees. Critical illness plans including cancer, heart disease, coma, stroke, etc. They would like to broaden options for employees including helping with raising costs. 20% of employees would need to participate for it to be viable. They would like to educate employees on how it works. They could present to each department and conduct a Q&A or have one big meeting and then meet with individual employees as needed. We currently have elective coverage such as short term disability through Colonial, as well as other voluntary programs through AFLAC. They would like to move outside of the enrollment period for November to offer these programs to the employees. The deductions would be less for employees for the new programs. Coverage will be expanded as well. We are locked into the contract with Colonial so there would not be an option of moving their open enrollment. Notice of meeting with Continental American will go out with paychecks and individual appointments will be scheduled. Commissioner Miller made a motion to amend the allow Mr. Clifford the ability to meeting individually with

employees for AFLAC/Continental American. Commissioner Hurt seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Hurt made a motion to amend the agenda to reflect an executive session. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Caroline Edwards RE: Tax Deeded Property

Commissioner Miller 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 1:38 p.m. Commissioner Hurt seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioner Romrell voting "Aye", Commissioner Hurt voting "Aye", and Commissioner Miller voting "Aye". Commissioner Romrell declared the meeting at 1:52 p.m.

Mrs. Edwards's property has been tax deeded and requested an extension of time to redeem the three parcels she owns. The property must be sold by September.

Commissioner Hurt made a motion to allow until July 1, 2010 for Ms. Edwards to pay the taxes on the property and to delay the sale of the Edwards property until September. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

David Schiess Schiess & Associates RE: Storm Water Ora Bridge Work in Fremont County

Mr. Schiess introduced himself and Bill Hunter to the Commissioners. Mr. Hunter relayed his ideas for the area. He would like to get involved in engineering work for this area. He would like to update the flood mapping. He would like to help with identifying and planning the flood needs for this County. Commissioner Romrell commented that he would like to keep the bidding for our projects relatively locally. The Commissioners are encouraging Ms. Vik to provide recommendations on the bidding for the projects. Both Mr. Schiess and Mr. Hunter have quite a bit of experiences with bridge building. Mr. Schiess discussed with the Commissioners the Island Park septage project.

Planning & Building Director Kurt Hibbert RE: Department Report

Mr. Hibbert talked about planning the records destruction. Shredded paper can go into the recycling. He has a meeting to work on the development code on Tuesday. He updated the Commissioners on the subdivision. Joshua Chase will be gone this Friday to next Thursday to a conference. He discussed the budget report. There are six people that are interested in short subdivisions. We have not heard from anyone about the lock on the back door. There has some illness within their department so janitorial work has been divided up between the other staff for a week or two. He reviewed building permits and the jump that they make in July. The bigger issues have been clarifying codes which have been very helpful.

Extension Office Dana Miller RE: 4-H

Mrs. Miller gave the commissioners her schedule for the month and a copy of the newsletter. She would like to get some mulch for the flower bed in front of the extension office. She would like to put some rock on the side of the building where it is all muddy. Commissioners have recommended that she talk with Ms. Vik about the rocks. She asked the Commissioners to be able

to use her budget to obtain some 4-H shirts. They said that would be fine as they help with identification. She will start to have kids riding in the County car for 4-H events. Mrs. Miller showed the Commissioners how to make a rocket and a volcano. These are examples of the projects she does with the schools.

Abbie Mace RE: Executive Session IC 67-2345 (b) Personnel

Commissioner Romrell made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to IC 67-2345 (b) to consider records that are exempt from disclosure as provided in chapter 3, title 9, Idaho code at 3:10 p.m. Commissioner Hurt seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioner Romrell voting "Aye", Commissioner Hurt voting "Aye", and Commissioner Miller voting "Aye". Commissioner Romrell declared the meeting at 3:33 p.m.

Public Works Director RE: Department Reports, Bridges, Sewer Ordinance & Sewer Hookup Fee

Sewer system – Everything is done for the Sewer Ordinance however she would like to review it one more time before publishing the hearing notice. The capitalization cost was reviewed. The current value of the sewer systems is \$17,109,000. Hook up fees will be approximately \$1200 plus maintenance costs. Hook up fees have not been raised in since 2007. Businesses it will cost approximately \$10,000. What is left of the budget will be used by current projects. There was some discussion on how this increase would impact any incoming businesses and the overall economy in general. There have not been any commercial hookups in the last few years. Buildings must be 500 feet from the line. Commissioners would like to see a 5% increase. Commissioner Miller made a motion to make a 5% increase on hook up fees. Commissioner Hurt seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Ms. Vik presented the Forsgren contract was presented for signature. Commissioner Romrell made a motion to sign the Forsgren task number 101-001 and the base contract for engineering services. Commissioner Hurt seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Road and Bridge – Lynn Trupp has made a proposal of \$1120 for heater in the St. Anthony Road & Bridge office. She reported on the asphalt bids. Commissioners would like to see a map of roads to be seal coated. She has some projects in Island Park that are scheduled for this year. The building in Island Park can be done for approximately \$175,000. She presented to the commissioners the report on bridge ratings. Average cost of the bridges that were replaced last year was \$80,000. Sufficiency ratings are done by outside engineers. Once the bridges rate below 50% they need to be replaced. She received a statement of qualifications from three engineering companies. They discussed giving a bridge design to each company. She reported on change of conditions for Cannon on Bridge #5, the landfill bridge, has a plan amendment to deal with the excess water. The commissioners authorized half payment for the change order request. She will be gone Wednesday and Thursday for Pavement Maintenance and Idaho Paving Materials.

Bills

Bills were reviewed and approved.

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

Paul Romrell, Chairman
Fremont County Commission

Attest: _____
Abbie Mace, Clerk