

FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
May 3, 2010

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

Also attended by: Clerk Abbie Mace, Deputy Clerk Cathy Conger, Prosecuting Attorney Joette Lookabaugh, Sheriff Len Humphries, Assessor Kathy Thompson and Treasurer Patricia McCoy

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

Commissioner Paul Romrell offered an opening prayer.

Prosecuting Attorney Joette Lookabaugh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Elected Officials

Assessor Kathy Thompson – We have updated the map server. Everyone has done a great job working on this. We are starting the assessment drive this week. We have one month to get everything finished up for June. We will be placing a note in the statements asking home owners to check their notices. Commissioner Romrell would like to use the computer arts program in Planning & Building.

Sheriff Len Humphries – The Forest Service Agreement was submitted for signature. We received an increase of approximately \$1700 for FY2010. There has been a slight increase over the last two years. The officers have been doing training in a variety of programs. I have two that have gone to several days of Swat School. I recently was able to attend the National Sheriff Institute. I have recently been appointed to the Council on Domestic Violence. We have 15 inmates in county custody.

Treasurer Patricia McCoy – Commissioner Romrell thanked Ms. McCoy for the quarterly report. We continue to improve our financial position every quarter. The Title Three money has not been pulled. She presented cancellations of \$3,340.50 for the month of April. We still have not seen a payment from BLM on landfill fees. It has been two years. We had a personal property and mobile home sale on April 20th. There are three parcels of county property and ten parcels of personal property that will be auctioned. Date for next sale would be the week of June 7th.

Clerk Abbie Mace – I have been gone for meetings the last two weeks. There was not a lot of new information at the PRIMA Conference. Idaho Association of Counties Board meeting was this week. Everyone is concerned about revenues and budgets. It appears that there will be some hits to it for us as well. I talked with Tony Poinelli about out PILT funding and they are not sure what we will be getting for FY2011. Rod Chandler brought in our ICRMP rates. The last two years have been \$176,211 for FY2009, \$149,000 for FY2010, and we will see an increase to \$182,360 in FY2011. Mary Kumer from ICRMP asked if we would like to do a pilot project on employee training. If we complete this program we could see some benefits in our premium decreasing. Every person driving a county vehicle would need to complete these courses. They are stressing no cell phone use while driving. The commissioners would like more information on this program however the Sheriff and Assessor are very much in favor of this. Commissioners have approved being a part of this pilot project. Election poll worker training is this Thursday. The budget hearing

dates for all the taxing districts have been finalized. Unemployment insurance will be increasing and we should have that rate soon. I am a little concerned that the tobacco money is going down.

Prosecuting Attorney Joette Lookabaugh – Carol Jensen's father passed away. Pat Smith and Carol Jensen are at the limit with personal time so they are alternating taking off every other Friday. The sheriff's office had filed two big drug cases that we filed charges on and turned them over to the federal office. This week we have some felony trials set. Next week we have a busy misdemeanor calendar. Civil contract disputes do not go to our office. Debris cleanup issue is not a case for our office. It may be beneficial for the county to become involved in the city clean up project. Illegal lot split issues has been raised again.

Commissioner Skip Hurt – We started moving dirt at the search and rescue building today. EMS building in Island Park will be done in a couple weeks. The sound system will be wireless. The ambulance unit in Island Park is putting over \$20,000 into the building. The Island Park road and bridge building plans are ready for the final cut. The water motor on the heating system is out in the courthouse and they are currently working on that.

Commissioner LeRoy Miller – Part of the bleachers are completed at the fair grounds. Waterways committee met and drew up a plan on what they want to see for Fremont County. Dale Swenson looked at it and said that it met what they needed from the irrigators. So far everyone is pretty happy about it. They will be looking at the river for boat launch sites. The golf course has set their summer programs. The census has hired a lot of people for door to door census reporting. The water shed meeting was last week. They put together two groups for scoping. He asked about any emergency response issues for the road work that is being done and the Sheriff replied that there wasn't.

Commissioner Paul Romrell – I visited with Ms. Vik about the bridge on Salem road. They will be working on that this week. He reported on the Cloud Seeding Meeting. Idaho Power will be adding additional generators to the program next year. There is a meeting Wednesday in Afton with RC&D to discuss the possibility of teaming up with our Cloud Seeding Program. I met with the City of Victor about cloud seeding contributions. I have a Public Health Board meeting on Thursday. Ms. Vik has put together a three page report on what we have completed in Island Park over the last few years.

Prosecuting Attorney Joette Lookabaugh RE: Intern

Prosecuting Attorney Joette Lookabaugh submitted lists of records that are ready to be destroyed from 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and we have more files that we will still need to do. The Resolution has been completed but she will give Clerk Mace a record of what was destroyed. Records of violent acts will not be destroyed. Ms. Lookabaugh needs the intern for about another 100 hours to complete the rest of the destruction, at \$10 an hour and believes that it can come out of her budget. Ms. Lookabaugh is wondering if it is ok to pay a private person out of these funds. Commissioners are in approval of this.

City of St. Anthony Rod Wilmore and Joe Thueson RE: Airport Board

Airport Board Member Joe Thueson proposed that the airport be a joint venture between the county and the city. The patrons are primarily county residents rather than city and the county has been very involved in assistance with upkeep and improvements. Additionally the county has more

influence with grants and funding. There are four city resident hangars and seventeen county resident owned hangars. There is a bit of work coming up in the coming years that may be a large expense. The hangars are required to pay rent plus operator fees. The specifics of how it would work would really be determined by how much the county wants to be involved. Someone from the county should be represented on the board. County would be putting up half the money and only have one voice. The city situation would be the same. Currently the board is made up of interested parties (hangar owners), a city representative and a non-interested party. Their recommendation is a representative from the county, a representative from the city with the airport board running the airport with an advisory board of 5. If the county joins it would match whatever the city also puts in. The county is currently putting in \$3000 for a project this year. A question was raised as to where liability will lay. Question was raised if this would be an enterprise fund however Clerk Mace doesn't believe so. Decision will be postponed until further discussion with the prosecuting attorney can happen. This will be placed on the May 10th agenda at 10:30 a.m.

Fairboard Chairman Sid Keller RE: Fairgrounds

Mr. Keller updated the commissioners on the work with the fairgrounds. The Eagle Scout project has been very helpful. There was some discussion on getting some of the work camp people to help with finishing the bleachers.

The ADA set of bleachers quote was discussed. This did not include the lift but Mr. Keller feels that we can do this on our own. The cost for the bleachers will come from a contribution from the July 24th Celebration Committee. Commissioner Hurt made a motion to approve the ADA bleachers for the fairgrounds in the amount of \$11,661.24. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Mr. Keller discussed suggestions from the Rotary Club to improve attendance at the county fair. They would like something that would attract local people out to the fairgrounds. They would like to build a fence right in front of the stands for pig wrestling. They talked about dropping ducks from a helicopter and the duck closest to the barrel would win. There was discussion held on whether or not there should be an entrance fee to the fair.

Public Works Director Marla Vik RE: Department Issues

Road and Bridge – Paving on Salem Road will not happen due to inclement weather. Butler Engineering submitted a proposal for completing 3 of the 5 canal bridges in the amount of \$12,390 with an additional \$7,210 for the centerline alignment. This does not include the inspection fee. Commissioner Miller made a motion to approve the Butler Engineering proposal. Commissioner Hurt seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

The Asphalt Zipper people are planning on receiving a payment this year; however this was not the agreement. Ms. Vik will work with Ms. Lookabaugh. The company will need to either be okay with our scheduled October payments or take it back.

Sewer system – Discussion was held on the sewer ordinance. A date of June 8th at 6:00 pm was set for the sewer hearing. It will be held in the new Island Park EMS building. The adjustments to the EDU table charges are being made based on physical facilities and it will be easier to track. Discussion was held on how to make the fees more closely related to square footage. The sewer

system has to be built based on capacity not on occupation. If the cabin rental fee is doubled than the normal user should be decreased by some degree.

Landfill – The free clean up at the St. Anthony landfill will start today and run until May 15th. We will still charge half price for tires since we will pay full price for disposal. County Clean up week is coordinated with the city clean up. Ms. Lookabaugh questioned if there was some way to help people with cleaning up their larger items. One option is for the land owner to take the items to the property line so that the county does not have to enter the actual property. The commissioners would like Ms. Vik to go ahead with moving the trailer now that it is asbestos free for destruction. The other two trailers may have asbestos so it would require commercial removal.

The road abandonment in Chester will be checked on by Ms. Vik and she will report to the commissioners on this next week.

Ms. Lookabaugh will research how and when county owned trailers can be sold or given away.

Treasurer Patricia McCoy RE: Nick James Property

This is the property that was discussed on April 5th with \$2500 in back taxes. It was determined that since there was no value because they are just right of ways (city roads) back taxes could be forgiven. Ms. McCoy questioned if the current owner can sell this property. It is our understanding that Mr. James will be giving this property to the adjacent home owner. This appears to be a city issue. We could do a tax deed and then deed it to the city. Ms. McCoy explained that the amount given to the commissioners at the prior discussion was not the correct amount. The commissioners have agreed that they will change the amount but are not able to change the decision. Ms. McCoy has concerns that we have forgiven back taxes on property that can now be sold by the property owner.

Commissioner Romrell made a motion to amend the motion for cancellation of back taxes for Nicholas James for the corrected amount of \$2451. 38. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Romrell made a motion to sign the Cooperative Agreement with Law Enforcement and the Forestry Department. Commissioner Hurt seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

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 12:58 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 1:13 p.m.

Commissioners signed four new liens for our county and three to outside counties and two releases of liens.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to approve cases #G2010-89, and #G2010-91, to deny case #M2010-29, #M2010-24, #M2010-25, and #M2010-27, and one Order of Dismissal Case #M2009-47. Commissioner Hurt seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Romrell made a motion to sign the Memorandum of Understanding County/Welfare Medical with the Department of Health and Welfare. Commissioner Hurt seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

USDA Forest Service Adrian Keller RE: Forest Service Information

Ms. Keller is retiring as of June 1, 2010. She expressed to the commissioners that she has enjoyed working with them. She has appreciated the good working relationship that she has had with them. They are in the process of choosing a replacement for her. She is hoping that her replacement will be in by mid June. The Tourism and Recreation Conference is presenting the Preservation Award this week Tamra Cikaitoga our Park & Recreation Director will be receiving an award. The Commissioners expressed that they have enjoyed working with her and all of her efforts in these past 15 years.

Assessor Kathy Thompson RE: Home Owners Exemptions & Circuit Breaker

Ms. Thompson presented the Circuit Breaker Roll in the amount of \$137,461.42 with 369 participants. Commissioner Hurt made a motion to approve the Circuit Breaker in the amount of \$134,461.42. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Ms. Thompson presented the Homeowners Exemption in the amount of \$198,476.700. Commissioner Miller made a motion to approve the Homeowners Exemption in the amount of \$198,476,700. Commissioner Romrell seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Planning & Building Administrator Kurt Hibbert & Planner II Joshua Chase RE: Department Report

Mr. Hibbert reported the planning and zoning meeting that was held. The code is almost ready. There is a special meeting on May 10th. Cliff site setbacks are addressed in the code. Mr. Chase gave the commissioners a print out on cliff setbacks. Commissioner Romrell asked about active building permits. After two years it does not terminate. Commissioners would like a mechanism in place that would be able to inform people that there is an open building permit on their property. Mr. Hibbert has been using Computer Arts on the building aspect but not the enforcement aspect. Mr. Hibbert suggested that the reminder letters that are sent out are changed to state that the building permit is being closed for lack of activity. Mr. Hibbert suggested that this new letter become policy. There was some discussion about the list that was generated regarding the building permits and how to delete the ones that are finished or over. The commissioners have instructed Mr. Hibbert to close permits that are no longer valid or have not been extended past the two years. Building permits are exactly where they were last year. They met with a woman who is complaining about an empty lot that has some debris on it. Commissioners recommended that we send a letter to owner of the empty lot. There was some discussion on property that is violating codes. It was pointed out by the Assessor's office that some areas are doing their own permits such as the Cities of Ashton and Island Park.

Weed Department Supervisor Bryce Fowler RE: Grant, Invasive Species Stickers & Requests for Shirts

Mr. Fowler informed the commissioners that they had received a grant award in the amount of \$70,812 from Milford Funds. Commissioner Hurt made a motion to open the budget to appropriate the spending of a grant award in the amount of \$70,812 from Milford Funds. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Last year for the boat washes the employees had uniforms so that people know who they are. The funds would come out of the RAC funds. Mr. Fowler is requesting we do the same this year. Commissioners approved this.

Miscellaneous

Review of bills was conducted and paid.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to approve the Commissioner Meeting minutes from April 12th, April 14th, April 15th and April 19th. Commissioner Hurt seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Discussion held on the request from Island Park to match funds from the Economic Development fund from the county. Commissioner Romrell stated that this was already approved and simply needed to be placed in the bills.

Commissioners agreed to give \$3000 to the Mountain Man Statue fund sponsored by the St. Anthony Rotary and \$1000 to the same project from the Park and Recreation Fund. Checks need to be made to the St. Anthony Rotary Club for \$3000 and \$1000.

Commissioner Romrell read the Audit Report letter. There were concerns addressed in the letter that the commissioners would like to address. Commissioner Romrell made a motion to sign the audit letter. Commissioner Hurt seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor. The Auditor would like us to write some internal policies on how we receive money into the county; procurement activities needs to have a policy established for it; lack of segregation in personnel payroll. There was some discussion about doing random payroll review.

Commissioner Romrell reported that he has received the approval from the State on the Drought Declaration.

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

Paul Romrell, Chairman
Fremont County Commission

Attest: _____

Abbie Mace, Clerk