

FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
August 8, 2011

Present for the meeting was: Commissioners Skip Hurt, Lee Miller and Jordon Stoddard, Prosecuting attorney Joette Lookabaugh

Also attended by: Clerk Abbie Mace, Deputy Clerk Jeanie Chavez, Chief Deputy Sherriff Kurt Hillman, Assessor Kathy Thompson, Prosecuting Attorney Joette Lookabaugh, and Treasurer Patricia McCoy

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

Clerk Abbie Mace offered the prayer.
Chief Deputy Sherriff Kurt Hillman led the pledge.

Commissioner Miller mentioned news about Afghanistan and people in custody.

Elected Officials & Department Heads

Chief Deputy Sheriff Kurt Hillman: Stated Sherriff is at a radio communication conference this week. They have 19 inmates in county custody. 18 males and a female being held in Madison county.

Assessor Kathy Thompson: She went out with her appraisers in Teton last week to review some ag exemptions. They will be reviewing this with the City of Teton. DMV has been very busy with new title purchases. They are scanning in home owner exemptions into the computer.

Treasurer Patricia McCoy presented tax cancellations of \$14,373.59 for June and \$137.16 for July.

Prosecuting Attorney Joette Lookabaugh: She stated they are having lots of issues with psyche problems and being committed to the state. She has had a few neighbor disputes over property lines. Residents upset about neighbor's fence being on their property. She went to a convention about Child Protection and other internet crimes. There have been some burglary problems recently.

Clerk Abbie Mace: We had an IRS audit and still waiting for all the results. We do a good job with our records. Friday she was in Boise attending a Court/County Committee meeting. Focusing On educating to commissioners and department heads. They will be meeting quarterly to discuss issues. Also she is working on budgets. They discussed setting budget work meetings on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. She introduced her new Deputy Clerk Jeanie Chavez.

Commissioner Jordon Stoddard: Commissioners discussed fixing the St. Anthony EMS building, and the courthouse roof. He spoke about the concrete repairs at the annex building. The City of Ashton wants to meet with the commissioners about their impact area. All 3 commissioners and Attorney Joette Lookabaugh will attend. They will be meeting ranchers from the area along with Senator Crapo's aid to talk about their grazing problems.

Commissioner Skip Hurt: He attended a few meetings last week. The programs that are being done away with are impacting our budget tremendously. Commissioner Hurt thanked Commissioner Miller for starting the meeting. Commissioners signing papers that Treasurer Pat McCoy gave them. He met with Blake Hall and DEQ last week. He met with the Idaho Historical Society about funding for roof repair on the courthouse.

Weed Department Supervisor Bryce Fowler RE: Department Report and Budget Opening

Mr. Fowler asked to open his budget in Fund 28 Noxious Weed by \$30,000 for this year. They have sprayed 1,553 acres so far this season. Commissioner Stoddard made a motion open the budget to be able to spend \$28,000 of unanticipated revenue. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor. He also reported on a new aquatic weed in Madison County that he will check on closer in our rivers. The state is looking at giving more funding next year. There has been a tremendous amount of boats inspected at Big Springs. There have been 23 boats have been stopped by the state that has had mussels on them. Federal Government cuts are having impact on the counties weed program. On August 24th there will be a meeting at Harriman. Everything is going well.

Treasurer Patricia McCoy RE: Budget Hearing for Treasurer

Commissioners denied Ms. McCoy's request for additional funding for training program in FY2012 Budget.

Carlos Aponte RE: Employee Medical Insurance Update (via phone)

Commissioners discussed insurance options for FY2012 via speaker phone with Mr. Aponte. All three commissioners are leaning towards going with Pacific Source with a \$1000/\$2000 deductible. Commissioners are deciding about HRA. The commissioners would like to discontinue use of BPA Insurance.

Jeremy Casterson RE: Introduction of Upper Snake Field Office Manager (BLM)

Jeremy Casterson introduced himself as the new field office manager for the Bureau of Land Management. He brought BLM Officer Jeff Long with him today. He is working on a resource management plan. He wants to review it all with the commissioners. He will be designating routes. Also a county recreation plan was discussed. The working relationship with BLM was discussed with commissioners.

Social Services – Debbie Adams Re: Indigent Claims

Commissioner Skip Hurt 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 1:00 p.m. Commissioner Lee Miller seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioner Jordon Stoddard voting "Aye", Commissioner Lee Miller voting "Aye", and Commissioner Hurt voting "Aye". Commissioner Skip Hurt declared the meeting open at 1:10p.m.

One new lien, one amended lien, and one released lien were signed by commissioners. They also signed one Finding in Fact and Order for Reimbursement.

Commissioner Lee Miller made a motion to approve case # G2011-94 and case # M2011-28. Commissioner Jordon Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Public Works Director Marla Vik RE: Department Reports

Ms. Vik has been getting a lot of phone calls regarding not being able to take brush and slash to the Meadow Creek gravel pit. She will be meeting with the Department of Lands to discuss it. The St. Anthony Road & Bridge crew will start on the Salem road next week. WHPacific has sent the signed Supplemental Agreement on the Stone Bridge dealing with the Environmental Assessment for the grizzly bear habitat.

Planning and Building Administrator Stephen Loosli RE: Department Report

Mr. Loosli updated the commissioners on the Big Horn Estates road vacation needs to be initiated by them. He would like to establish a daily route for the snowmobile groomers to follow for this upcoming season. The groomers need to report what they observe on the trails. Johnny Sack has finished the first year of a five year agreement for management with the Forest Service. He reviewed the fee system at the Egin Lakes Sandhill access run by the BLM. He likes this system as a possible system for fee collection on our waterways facilities. Some grants were discussed. Some of them are changing to an every other year application. He is working on a grant for a regional plan of development with BLM, Forest Service, Fish and Game, city of Ashton, St. Anthony, and Island Park. He is working on Opportunity 30 Grant Application. He would like to check out a county Laptop to Wanda Adams to work on the grants from home. They discussed the funding to restore and repair the courthouse roof. A compliance letter was written and sent out to an individual in the county. He is having it reviewed by legal counsel. The new Ordinance requires us to be specific in our noncompliance. He passed around a month by month report on green fees at the golf course. Revenues for the season are comparable to previous seasons.

Planning & Building Administrator Stephen Loosli RE: Final Plat and Development Agreement for Rivers Edge Subdivision

This has been postponed until Monday, August 15, 2011.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to amend the agenda for Executive Session IC 67-2345(b). Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Hurt 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 2:00 p.m. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioner Jordon Stoddard voting "Aye", Commissioner Lee Miller voting "Aye", and Commissioner Hurt voting "Aye". Commissioner Skip Hurt declared the meeting open at 2:06 p.m.

Planning and Building Administrator Stephen Loosli RE: Executive Session IC 67-2345(c)

Commissioner Hurt made a motion to go into executive into executive session pursuant to IC 67-2345(c) to conduct deliberations concerning labor negotiations or to acquire an interest in real property which is not owned by a public agency at 2:07 p.m. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioner Jordon Stoddard voting "Aye", Commissioner Lee Miller voting "Aye", and Commissioner Hurt voting "Aye". Commissioner Skip Hurt declared the meeting open at 2:28 p.m.

Emergency Management Coordinator Keith Richey RE: 2011 EMPG Grant Acceptance

Mr. Richey presented the acceptance papers for the 2011 EMPG Grant. Commissioner Miller made a motion to accept the 2011 EMPG Grant. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor. He also updated the commissioners on the \$249,000 grant that was awarded for fuel reductions in the Potpourri Subdivision. He is asking for permission to hire Northwest Management to manage the grant for a fee of \$42,000. Commissioners asked Mr. Richey to try and negotiate this fee down and report back to them. He gave an update on the fence at the airport.

Senator Mike Crapo RE: County Issues:

Senator Mike Crapo introduced himself to the meeting. Commissioner Hurt welcomed him to the meeting. Thanked him for coming and introduces the department heads. Commissioner Hurt discussed the concerns of Secure Rural School Funding and PILT. Commissioner Hurt discusses the issue of Mount Jefferson proposed wilderness area and the Idaho and Montana border. He indicated that the Idaho side of Mount Jefferson proposed wilderness area will be removed, if he supports the overall bill. He is not willing to do that. Commissioner Hurt expressed concerns, and would like it to remain as is (open to snowmobiles in the winter). Commissioner Miller discussed the removal of funding for the NCRS is closing RC&D programs around the state and would like to have that money restored. Senator Crapo is trying to get a budget through for this year. The budget last year was not done in an orderly manner. He states there will be significant cuts in spending. Crapo states there are many programs that could be eliminated due to many others available that offer the exact same thing. There are multiple agencies doing the same thing.

Weed Supervisor Bryce Fowler discussed weed control issues with Senator Crapo.

Public Works Director Marla Vik presented concerns with regulations on bridge replacements. She gave Senator Crapo an update on grizzly bear habitat on replacing an existing bridge and the reviewing of the grizzly bear effects. Senator Crapo stated that technically congress could pass law to change this but unlikely to pass. He state there is another way to address these kinds of regulatory activity. He stated congress can put riders on funding or eliminate funding for these agencies. Senator Crapo discussed the approval of the bridge with Attorney Joette Lookabaugh.

Assessor Kathy Thompson stated that her office is doing well. Senator Crapo commented on how well our county elected officials are doing.

Commissioner Hurt discussed PREA Act and the ramifications that it has on county jails and detention centers along with the probation departments. Senator Crapo discussed the unfunded mandates being eliminated. Abbie mentioned the concerns of healthcare within the counties. There was a discussion about health care reform. Commissioner Hurt discussed the Insurance policy being so expensive. Senator Crapo stated that the small operations don't get as good of rates for insurance premiums as the larger operations.

Steven Loosli discussed with Senator Crapo HUD releasing grants to the public. Senator Crapo stated it is unfortunate that the smaller populated areas are not getting the funds. The programs available are in favor the larger communities.

Prosecuting Attorney's Office RE: Ordinance Regarding off Highway Vehicles

Ms. Lookabaugh proposing amending the counties off-highway vehicle safety acts.

Prosecuting Attorney's Office RE: Finding of Facts and Conclusions of Law (Wilford Road Vacation)

Commissioner Miller made a motion to accept and sign the Findings of Facts and Conclusion of Law for the Wilford Road Vacation of 52 feet to be given to Joseph and Linda Meservy and retain 47 1/2 feet. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Miscellaneous

Commissioner Hurt made a motion to change personnel policies under Section 9. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Miller made the motion to approve the claims as submitted. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all voting in favor.

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

Skip Hurt, Chairman
Fremont County Commission

Attest: _____
Abbie Mace, Clerk