

Fremont County Commissioners Meeting
Amended Minutes
January 8, 2007

Present for the meeting were Commissioners Paul Romrell, Skip Hurt, and Donald Trupp.

Also in attendance were Prosecuting Attorney Karl Lewies, Treasurer Patricia McCoy, Sheriff Ralph Davis, Assessor Kathy Thompson, Clerk Abbie Mace, and Deputy Clerk Suzanne L. Bagley was present to take minutes.

Commissioner Romrell declared the meeting open.

Commissioner Trupp made a motion to elect Paul Romrell to serve as Chairman of the Board. Commissioner Hurt seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with commissioners voting in favor.

Treasurer McCoy had nothing to report at this time.

Assessor Kathy Thompson had nothing to report at this time.

Corner Dennis Birch reported to the commissioners that this has been a light year and stated that there were no car accidents and no drowning with a total of eight cases that required the assistance of the corner.

Clerk Abbie Mace had nothing to report.

Prosecuting Attorney Karl Lewies stated that tomorrow is the Stephens Ranch Appeal. He also stated that he has a new Deputy Prosecutor Jimmy Barrett who stated today.

Judge Keith Walker stated that there are three new Judges in the district. He also stated that the Sheriff's Office would like some training for the Prosecutors Office to help with better skills and ticket writing. He stated that he has been working through the transition of the change in Public Defender and Deputy Prosecutor going to be a Public Defender. Josh Garner has been appointed for any defendant conflict cases.

Commissioner Romrell stated that he has been working on a list for commissioners committee assignments.

Commissioner Hurt wanted Elected Officials to be aware that there will be some construction going on in the courthouse. Commissioners will move the GIS Department downstairs where Planning & Building Department was, and the Commissioners will move where GIS was. Commissioner Hurt will be over Buildings and Grounds. Commissioners reviewed a bid for remodeling of the new GIS room for dry wall and texture; remove door and frame, base molding and other renovations in the amount of \$2,250.00. Commissioner Trupp made a motion to approve the bid to John Sommers to in

the amount of \$2,250.00. Commissioner Hurt seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Joe Carroll put an estimate to \$825.00 for painting of the same room. Commissioner Trupp made a motion to approve the bid for painting in the amount of \$825.00 to Joe Carroll Painting. Commissioner Hurt seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Hurt has a bid from Thompson Construction to add two windows at the Annex Building in the amount of \$3,950.00. Commissioner Romrell made a motion to approve the replacement of two windows from Thompson Construction in the amount of \$3,950.00. Commissioner Hurt seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioners discussed plans for the new commissioner's room.

GIS Administrator Bonnie Moore came before the commissioners to discuss the two plotter/copiers and where they will go. These machines scan, copy, and plot. The annex building needs one. The other is currently in the Assessors Office. Commissioners agreed that the one currently in GIS will move over to the annex. Bonnie would like to purchase a plotter for \$8,900.00 that can be used in her office or the Assessors Office.

Weed Supervisor Bryce Fowler agreed to remove the snow in the courthouse parking lots. The commissioners agreed to purchase a new snowplow blade for the weed departments four wheeler in the amount of approximately \$400.00.

Extension Educator Janice Stimpson, Weed Supervisor Bryce Fowler and 4-H Coordinator Dana Miller, gave a presentation of each of their departments to the commissioners.

Janice Stimpson talked about the funding aspects of how the Extension Office works and gave commissioners a brief over view of the job descriptions in the Extension office.

Bryce Fowler talked about the Noxious Weed program and some of the things that have happened in the past year.

Charles Preston came before the commissioners to ask that he not be charge the Sewer O & M fees. Mr. Preston was going to build a house, but now he is not due to health problems and will not be building until the summer of 2007.

Dan Lostutter stated that Mr. Preston did hook on to the sewer with a pipe, and that even though he is not currently using the system past practice has been at the time of payment for a sewer hookup O & M charges start.

Dan Lostutter stated that since 1988 this is how it has worked regardless of completion of the structure.

Mr. Preston stated that he thinks that this is unfair because he had a medical emergency that has delayed construction of his cabin.

Chief Deputy Treasurer J'Lene Cherry stated that this is the only way they have to keep track of when people actually do hook up.

Dan Lostutter stated that since this was a medical emergency this could be a hardship extension.

Commissioner Hurt stated that he does not think that we can make the exception.

Attorney Karl Lewies stated that there can be a medical exception made to that. Attorney Karl Lewies stated that the commissioners could give Dan the authority to make these determinations on a case by case basis.

Clerk Mace stated that the commission needs to keep in mind that the budget has been set based on all the current hookup's paying O&M fees.

Commissioner Romrell stated that he does not think that this falls into the hardship category.

Mr. Preston is the contractor and did not anticipate the illness.

Commissioner Romrell stated that he will be building within the current fiscal year.

Commissioner Romrell, Commissioner Trupp and Commissioner Hurt all agreed to deny Mr. Preston's request.

Ronald Peterson No Show

James Randall came before the commissioners to introduce the Island Park Sewer Caldera Association. Mr. Randal and his group are coming before the commissioners to do a feasibility study on forming a sewer district in Island Park.

Commissioner Romrell wanted to make it perfectly clear that the commissioners are not against this, but they do not want to inherit a problem back should this fail.

Commissioner Romrell stated that he would like to know that the people setting on the board have the ability and expertise to do the feasibility study. He asked if the group was going to hire someone to complete the study.

Mr. Randall stated that the committee was going to do the study.

Commissioner Hurt stated that he is not opposed to this, but he would also like to make sure that if this is the best thing for the County and they can take it from there. Commissioner Hurt would like to see this done without emotions interfering.

Mr. Randall stated that they are looking into this very carefully.

Attorney Karl Lewies stated that Keller & Associates did a cost analysis study for the county.

Mr. Randall stated that they are trying to understand it; that they are looking into this very carefully.

Data was an issue. Mr. Randall stated that it looks like there was 150% increase projected for next year according to the information from Keller's study.

The County is projecting a 5% increase annual for several years.

Commissioners would like Clerk Mace to work with Mr. Preston on getting him the necessary information he has requested.

Commissioners would like to communicate better with this committee and would like a commissioner to attend the meetings of the sewer association to give them a better understanding and a possible explanation of things.

Island Park Sewer Supervisor Dan Lostutter came before the commissioners to discuss testing at the Lagoons at Last Chance and what engineering firm to hire this

summer. Commissioner s would like to wait until the Public Works Director is hired to make this decision.

He also stated Gray Campbell from Ponds Lodge is in the process of selling lots and Dan Lostutter made it very clear that he will need an inspector there to make sure that the sewer lines are installed properly.

Dan Lostutter would like to hire a part time person to shovel man holes during the summer. Once again the commissioners would like to leave this the Public Works Director.

Social Services Director Debbie Adams asked to meet with commissioners in executive session for the purpose of indigent claims. Commissioner Romrell made a motion to go into executives session pursuant to IC 76-2345 (d) at 1:06 p.m. Commissioner Hurt seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioner Hurt voting I, Commissioner Trupp voting I, and Commissioner Romrell voting I. Commissioner Romrell declared the meeting open at 1:48 p.m. Commissions signed two new liens and five releases of liens.

Debbie Adams reviewed indigent claims for the first quarter of 2007. Commissioner Trupp made a motion to approve case #G2007-14, approve case #G2007-27, approve case #G2007-24, approve case # G2007-25, approve case #G2007-28, deny case #M2007-07, deny case #M2007-09, deny case #M2006-65, and deny case #M2006-66. Commissioner Romrell seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting n favor.

Mr. Tom Goe came before the commissioners to discuss a letter received from the Fremont County Weed Control Department. Mr. Goe stated that during winter he is not able to do anything to control the weed on his property; but during the spring he would be able to better handle the problem. Several neighbors have expressed concerns about the weeds and the seeds from the weeds located on Mr. Goe's property. Mr. Goe stated that he would take care of the problem. Commissioners asked if seed burning would be an option?

Weed Supervisor Bryce Fowler would like to see it farmed. Mr. Goe stated that he has several people that are interested in farming the ground, and that in the spring and he will address the problem.

Emergency Management Coordinator Keith Richey gave commissioners a brief explanation of the grant money that the county has received since he was hired.

Road & Bridge Supervisor Weldon Reynolds, Road Forman Russ Ader and Blair Jones came before the commissioners to discuss a few issues.

Weldon Reynolds would like to purchase a 1982 model used pup trailer for \$18,000.00 verses a new one for \$43,000.00. They currently have two pup trailers down and feel that they are not worth fixing. This price is available till 5:00 p.m. today. The Road & Bridge stated they agree that trailer is the priority at this time. Commissioner Romrell made a motion to purchase the pup trailer for \$18,000.00. Commissioner Trupp

seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Hurt asked where priorities are regarding the purchase of this new equipment.

Weldon stated that currently the trucks are in the worst shape in the St. Anthony area.

Weldon stated that there is some confusion about plowing roads and how to add additional roads. Commissioners will address the requests on individual basis. Commissioners asked what the Road & Bridge departments for recommendations are on this. Commissioners would like to wait until we have the Public Works Director hired to address this issue. In the meantime the commissioners will address this on an individual basis.

Board of Equalization Missed Rolls January 8, 2007

Commissioner Romrell declared the Board of Equalization open for the missed roll.

There were no appointments made or any public comment.

Commissioner Romrell declared the Board of Equalization closed for the missed roll.

Commissioner Romrell made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 2, 2007 meeting. Commissioner Hurt seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Trupp made a motion to amend the Bench Mark Grant from \$18,113.04 to \$19,941.84 for FY2007. Commissioner Trupp seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Romrell updated the board of a group headed by the Forest Service to slow down the loss of the aspen tree in the area. Commissioner Romrell asked Commissioner Hurt to attend the meetings in behalf of the County.

Attorney Karl Lewies presented the Finds of Fact and Conclusion of Law and Order vacating Tout Street in the Egin Town site. Commissioner Hurt made a motion to approve the Facts Findings and Conclusion on this. Commissioner Trupp seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Hurt asked the commission to allow him to explore a policy on vehicle use. Commissioners agreed to allow this.

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

Paul Romrell, Chairman
Fremont County Commission

Attest: _____
Abbie Mace, Clerk