

Fremont County Commissioners Meeting Held at Ponds Lodge, Island Park, Idaho February 13, 2006

Present for this meeting were Commissioner Donald Trupp, Commissioner Paul Romrell, and Commissioner John Hess. Also in attendance were Prosecuting Attorney Karl Lewies, Treasurer Patricia McCoy, Chief Deputy Treasurer J'Lene Cherry Assessor Ivel Burrell, Chief Deputy Assessor Barbara Hirschi, Sheriff Ralph Davis, Emergency Management Coordinator Keith Richey, Clerk Abbie Mace, and Deputy Suzanne L. Bagley was present to take minutes.

Commissioner Romrell declared the meeting open

Commissioner Romrell greeted the public and the community of Island Park. A special thank you was given to Gary Campbell for the use of the facility.

Assessor Ivel Burrell reported to the commissioners that February 16, 2005 is the FEAC Board at 7:00 p.m. in the Fremont County Annex Building. Assessor Ivel Burrell gave citizens a brief overview of FEAC and how it works, and the purpose of the FEAC Board.

Assessor Ivel Burrell talked about an HP printer that has a warranty about to expire, and is not sure what to do. Clerk Mace suggested that she visit with the IT Department, and see what her recommendation is. Commissioner Romrell stated that this would be acceptable, and to report at the next commissioners work meeting.

Assessor Ivel Burrell talked about the proposed windmills that are may be coming into the County.

Assessor Ivel Burrell has some information she distributed on the Circuit Breaker Program that might be helpful to those residents that qualify. The deadline to qualify for this exemption is April 15, 2006.

She also stated that the deadline to apply for the homeowners exemption is Aril 15, 2006.

Treasurer Patricia McCoy gave cancellations in the amount of \$1,972.13 for the month of January. She also stated that reminders have been sent for delinquent property within the County.

Prosecuting Attorney Karl Lewies stated to the commissioners that the Grube matter is before the Judge on a motion to "stay". Attorney Karl Lewies feels that this matter probably will not go to trial before March 6, 2006.

Karl Lewies reported on the Eagles Nest Subdivision Appeal that is at the Supreme Court level. A new brief has been filed, and he is working on a response.

Sheriff Ralph Davis reported on his meetings in Boise. Sheriff Davis stated that there are several bills that are being introduced regarding the use of ATV's.

Sheriff Davis reported to the commissioners that there are several scams that are in the area targeting the Senior Citizens. These scams are very popular, and are targeted in our area.

Sheriff Davis reported that due to the time factor of the Grube case, his office is becoming familiar with the case once again in the event that this goes to trial quickly.

The Sheriffs Office will be purchasing a new fingerprinting system through homeland security grant.

Sheriff Davis reported to commissioners that there are currently 23 inmates in the County custody.

Clerk Abbie Mace reported to the commissioner on the meetings that were held in Boise last week.

This is an election year. Clerk Mace reported that there will be new ballot marking machines for voters that are handicapped or anyone else who would like to use them. Clerk Mace stated that in the future there may be legislation for a total vote by mail election. Some of the voters and legislators feel that voting is a social event, and are not ready to make this change. She also stated there are several bills dealing with property taxes and suggested that they keep a close eye on them.

Commissioner Hess made a motion to approve the use of U.S. Commodities by Elected Officials, and Department Heads for purchasing goods for the county. Commissioner Trupp seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Romrell discussed the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and them willing to pay only 50% of the taxes owing. Commissioners visited with a Legislator, and it was suggested that they be treated like any other entity that does not pay taxes. Attorney Karl Lewies will look into this issue further.

Clerk Mace has one liquor catering permit request from Faye Kennedy. Commissioner Hess made a motion to approve this. Commissioner Trupp seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Romrell stated that due to some grant monies Mr. Richey to be raised from 19 to 30 hours a week, this increase will be paid through grant monies. Commissioner Hess made a motion. Commissioner Trupp seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioners discussed the acceptance of a grant for two new vans for the Senior Citizens in St. Anthony. Commissioner Trupp made a motion to accept the grant. Commissioner Hess seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner released two liens for the Last Chance Line Extension LID. Commissioner Trupp made a motion to Release two Liens. Commissioner Hess seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor. Commissioner Trupp made a motion to release two liens for the Mack's Inn LID. Commissioner Hess seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor. Commissioner Trupp made a motion to release one lien from the Last Chance LID. Commissioner Hess seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Clerk Mace read a letter from CASA. CASA has once again requested \$1,000.00 for the FY 2005-2006. Commissioner Hess made a motion to donate \$1,000.00 to the CASA Program. Commissioner Trupp seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Keith Richey Emergency Coordinator reported to the commissioners that the earthquake that was felt did no damage in the Dillon Montana area.

Keith Ritchie talked about the bird flu. He felt that there was no apparent danger at this time.

Keith Ritchie presented a Fremont County line of Authority for a disaster declaration. This would need to be done through resolution. Commissioner Hess made a motion to approve Resolution 2006-05 Line of Authority. Commissioner Trupp seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Hess made a motion to approve Resolution #2006-06 that has Fremont County adopt the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Commissioner Trupp seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Hess made a motion to sign the letter of acceptance of our new Emergency Preparedness Manual. Commissioner Trupp seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Romrell asked Commissioner Hess to give a report of the meeting he attended in Boise last week. Commissioner Hess gave a report of a Solid Waste incinerator he observed in Washington State. Commissioner Hess reported on a meeting with DEQ and Central Health District on water quality issues. He stated the burden still rests with the local government.

Commissioner Romrell gave a report from the commissioners. He reported that the DEQ would have some information on their web site about the septic systems standards.

Commissioner Trupp made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

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

Larry Timchak the new Targhee Forest Supervisor and Adrianna Keller the Ashton District of the Forrest Service met with the commissioners.

Mr. Timchak talked about the secure school rule act.

Another issue he discussed was the delisting of the grizzly bears. The state of Idaho will take a bigger role with the grizzly bears. The delisting rule should come sometime this year. There will not be drastic changes, but it will allow conflicts to be taken care of.

Mr. Timchak stated that there is a lot of insect and disease within this area of the forest. He stated that there have been two timber sales that have been challenged in litigation, and there will not be any future sales until the lawsuit is completed.

The road less issues were discussed.

Commissioner Romrell stated that there are several needs of the County for ground in the Island Park area. The County needs a site for the Ambulance, library, and a holding cell for Law Enforcement. The City would also need a place to build a City Building, and any other needs that may come from a possible joint effort.

The Forrest Service cannot donate land they only have for following options:

- The town site act – sell land at fair market value, and this can be done at anytime
- Land Exchange- State wide exchange to work on something that would be of benefit.
- Lease exchange

The Gem Team in Island Park has also been trying to find a way to make this work. Commissioner Romrell stated that he would be in touch.

Jim Mullen and Brian Phenin from Keller & Associates came before the commissioners to give a presentation on the Island Park Sewer Study Results. Mr. Mullen stated that in this study there were three main goals.

Determine if there are water quality problems

There were several samples taken from Buffalo River, Elk Creek, and Henry's Fork. There were several location, and several areas that these studies taken from. In the study of the reservoir they found that there were:

- No bacteriological contamination
- Increasing levels of phosphorous
- No indications of naturally occurring phosphorus
- Heavy algal blooms indicative of phosphorous laden water.

There have been studies that they could go back and compare to. They also looked at groundwater, and tested several groundwater wells, and found:

- 6 sites sampled
- Ground water shows no indications of impact
- Coliform, Nitrates, and TDS were all at acceptable levels.

Future growth:

- Island Park is population and usage will continue to increase.
- Additional septic tank usage in Buffalo River/ Elk Creek areas may cause an increase in E coil and other pathenogenic Organisms in Buffalo River and Elk Creek.
- As area septic tank usage increases Phosphorous concentrations in IP reservoir are expected to increase.

Recommendation:

- Continue comprehensive water quality sampling program to identify and better define actual human influence
- Work to remove cattle from riparian areas
- Encourage reduction in phosphorous use

Further recommendations would be:

- Require new development that easily accommodates centralized sewer system
- New development within a reasonable distance of centralized system required to connect

- Require large developments not in reasonable proximity to construct own collection treatment system.

Mr. Mullen opened the remainder of the time for questioning. Mr. Mullen stated that to continue annual water testing in the area would run approx. \$10,000.00 per year.

Clerk Mace asked if any of this could be funded through DEQ.

Mr. Mullen stated that this may be a possibility. He also stated that there are a lot of factors that need to be addressed with the continued sampling such as snow levels, and he would recommend that this be done yearly until a pattern can be established.

Commissioner Romrell stated that this set of commissioners would like to see an annual review for at least 5 years. They are very concerned, and feel that would money well spent.

Mr. Mullen suggests that residents take part in finding what they could do, such as using low phosphate detergents. There needs to be public awareness.

Clerk Mace stated that these funds to perform this study did not come from the Sewer O & M fees, these came from tax payer monies. The County put in \$25,000.00 for the study, and DEQ put in \$25,000.00 for the study.

Commissioner Trupp thanked all those who participated in the study, and thanked Keller & Associates for their time & effort into the project.

Dan Lostutter Island Park Sewer Supervisor came before the commissioners to give a sewer report.

Dan Lostutter reported they have currently run 6 millions through snow fluent at Mack's Inn.

Dan Lostutter has asked commissioners for input on the septic pump haulers. Dan Lostutter would like to close the Mack's Inn Lagoon to dumping. The systems are not equipped for that kind of dumping. The commissioners will review this further.

Dan stated that will Harry Barker retiring in the spring that DEQ is requiring all new people who apply for the job must be licensed. They used to have 1 year to obtain the required licensing, but now they need to licensed when hired. Dan Lostutter will have an application on line for any one who may be interested in the job.

Dan Lostutter would like \$300.00 in reimbursement for the upgrade of his computer that has not been done since 1999. Commissioner Hess made a motion to allow the reimbursement for the upgrade of his personal computer. Commissioner Trupp seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor. Dan Lostutter submitted an annual report for review.

Dan Lostutter gave commissioners a name for the Sewer Advisory Board of Mark Morris. Commissioner Hess made a motion to appoint Mr. Mark Morris to the Sewer Advisory Board. Commissioner Trupp seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioners signed a grant application for funds to perform a study on the sewer system.

Bobby Eck a Fremont County resident came before the commissioners to advise them of an incident that happened. The Landfill employees came to pick up an old trailer from Mr. Eck's property. In the process they damaged a parked car on Mr. Eck's property.

Commissioner Romrell stated that Mr. Eck needs to fill out a claim form and it will be submitted to the insurance. Mr. Eck stated that he would pick one up at the Clerk's Office.

Commissioners will discuss this further with Landfill Supervisor Butch Nagle.

Mr. Ken Corbridge a Fremont County Resident came before the commissioners to discuss a snowmobile and four wheeler use on the Yale Kilgore road. Mr. Corbridge would like this declared this road to be dual purpose allowing snowmobiles, ATV's and vehicles, because there is nowhere to put a snowmobile trail, which many residents in the area use to commute to their homes.

Tamra Cikaitoga stated that she could not agree more with Mr. Corbridge, and stated that there is no place to go. Tamara stated that there is no place to keep a trail.

Tamara Cikaitoga stated that they do the best they can, but sometimes it is just not due-able.

Mr. Corbridge asked that they not give tickets because there is no where they can go.

Sheriff Davis stated to Mr. Corbridge that they cannot just turn a blind eye to one side of the public, and not the others. No one is looking at ATV's on the road. Sheriff Davis stated that there are several pieces of legislation to make the ATV's and Snowmobile laws clear.

Mr. Corbridge stated that tourists and residents are being alienated, because they do not have any where to go.

Commissioner Romrell asked Attorney Karl Lewies where to go to make this a dual purpose trail. Attorney Karl Lewies stated that this would be something that would need to be taken care of by the Parks and Recreation Department. Parks and Recreation Director Tamara Cikaitoga stated that she has to answer to two boards (the County and the State Department of Parks and Recreation), and one of the biggest issues is that they do not want to be a four wheeler access area.

Mr. Corbridge stated that he wishes that the law enforcement would get out on the trail, and take a look at where the problems are.

Sheriff Davis stated that he does not have the man power to cover post someone full time in the area.

Mr. Corbridge stated that there is mass confusion in the Sheriff's Office as to weather or not you will receive a ticket.

Tamara Cikaitoga stated that she would probably not support this at this time. Commissioner Romrell asked what the commission would have to do have this changed. Commissioner Romrell would like to know what the public thinks. Commissioner Romrell is not prepared to make a decision at this time, he would like to meet with Law Enforcement, Parks, and Recreation, and have public comment from those who live in the area. Commissioner Romrell stated that he would like to meet with Tamara Cikaitoga, and Sheriff Ralph Davis at the next commissioners work meeting Tuesday February 21, 2006.

Skip Foster owner Lazy Trout Lodge met with the commissioners. Mr. Foster that there is a real problem with private residents in the Island Park area being rented out as nightly lodging with now regulation. He stated that he feels that this is very unfair, and

stated that there are over 200 of these. Mr. Foster wants to know if they are paying the proper taxes, and the properly regulated as he is with his business, and he feels that they are very unfair.

Commissioner Romrell stated that this would have to be addressed in the comprehensive plan, and this has significant problem. Commissioner Romrell stated that he is very sympathetic to Mr. Fosters needs.

Skip Foster stated that he called Teton County, Idaho, and they call a compliance officer to site them, and they it goes to the County to deal with.

County Attorney Karl Lewies stated that the commissioners have this on radar, and are going to address this in the comprehensive plan.

Commissioner Hess also stated that the commissioners are working on this, and would like to let them know that they are very well aware of this problem, and are re-writing the comprehensive plan.

Weldon Reynolds Road & Bridge Supervisor came before the commissioners to give a road report. Weldon Reynolds stated that the St. Anthony crew is working on equipment to get ready for spring. The Island Park crew is cleaning off the roads in preparation of a new storm. The Ashton crew is also getting equipment ready.

Weldon Reynolds stated that the transportation plan is coming along nicely. The Parker-Salem Highway is another project that is in the works.

Elizabeth Layden from Island Park News asked what roads would be worked on this summer. Weldon Reynolds stated that Sawtelle Peak Road, additional right of Way at Henry's Lake, Yale-Kilgore to Centennial Shores.

Commissioner Hess asked if Weldon Reynolds would be interested in buying gravel from an individual. Weldon Reynolds stated that he would be interested in buying if the price, and the gravel was right.

Weldon Reynolds stated he likes the Code of the West simply because it states if you move there they County is not obligated to take care of you.

Richard Nelson stated that he does not like the attitude of the Weldon Reynolds, because there are a lot of other roads in the County that are well taken care of but not in Island Park.

Commissioner Romrell stated that he sits on a transportation committee, and one of the main concerns are oil, and concrete costs. Commissioner Romrell stated that the bottom line is that we hear you, and that we are working on theses requests with the limited budget we have.

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

Paul Romrell, Chairman
Fremont County Commission

Attest: _____
Abbie Mace, Clerk