

FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
September 10, 2012

Present for the meeting was: Commissioners Skip Hurt, Lee Miller and Jordon Stoddard.

Also attended by: Clerk Abbie Mace, Deputy Clerk Laura Singleton, Sheriff Len Humphries, and Prosecuting Attorney Joette Lookabaugh, Assessor Kathy Thompson, Treasurer J'Lene Cherry, and Sheriff Len Humphries

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

Treasurer J'Lene Cherry offered the prayer.

Deputy Clerk Laura Singleton led the pledge.

Elected Officials & Department Heads

Treasurer J'Lene Cherry reported tax cancellations for the month of August in the amount of \$19,095.48. Ms. Cherry also asked the commissioners for permission to buy a new money counter. It will cost \$2695 to buy a new one and will catch counterfeit money. They have enough money saved up to buy one. The commissioners agreed to let Ms. Cherry buy the machine.

Assessor Kathy Thompson reported that they are still working on the water problem downstairs. She also reported that the state has lowered the homeowner exemption allowance again for tax year 2013. It was lowered from \$83,974 to \$81,000. Ms. Thompson reported that they are busy working on personal property tax reports.

Sheriff Len Humphries reported that they have 16 inmates in county custody. Sheriff Humphries met with the Forest Service last week and discussed the possible closure of a road at Bear Gulch because of wash out. Sheriff Humphries requested that the road not be closed in case they have a rescue that would require using the road. Commissioner Miller stated that the road would be open to four wheelers for rescue purposes. The Sheriff's Office has also received complaints about a log that has fallen across the river. Sheriff Humphries stated that they have contacted the Forest Service about removing the log but the Forest Service has declined to do anything about it. They will write a letter asking the Forest Service to reverse their decision on removing the log. The Forest Service now has knowledge of the danger of the situation and this should release the county of any liability should an accident happen there. Because the river is federally regulated, the county cannot go in and remove it.

Prosecuting Attorney Joette Lookabaugh stated that she has had a very busy week. Her office has filed one felony case. Ms. Lookabaugh reported that the Ashton Urban Renewal Agency has filed a petition for judicial review and stated that she will not be working for them on this case. Elizabeth Wynn has been hired for the part-time position in the Prosecutor's Office. She has a paralegal certificate so she is well qualified.

Clerk Abbie Mace reported having a busy week also. She has been working on L-2's and will be submitting them digitally this year. All the L-2's are in except the ones the commissioners gave an extension to which should be in today. The ballots for the election have been signed off on and were sent in on Friday. Ms. Mace stated we have had a lot of interest in absentee voting so we anticipate a very busy voting season. She also reminded everyone that the employee meetings on insurance will be held the next two days and everyone will need to attend. She encouraged everyone to sit down with their employees and go over and explain the step in grade. Blood draws are coming up so everyone needs to have their paperwork filled out and ready to go. Employees who are in the three month probationary period who are going to be on the insurance need to make

sure they attend the blood draw as well. The Health Department has also agreed to give the DTAP vaccine for the county on the 14th of September. They will also be giving the flu shot on that day. Commissioner Lee Miller met with Liz Davey, from the Forest Service, and discussed the road into bear gulch that they are talking about closing. Commissioner Miller also recommended that the road stay open. They also discussed the RAC projects that have been submitted. Work on the Warm River Bridge was top priority. They discussed meeting on the 21st of September in Idaho Falls to make decisions on the RAC projects. He also attended a meeting on cloud seeding Thursday and a decision was made to start cloud seeding on November 1st. Mr. Miller stated that the commissioners will be attending IAC meetings next week. He also stated that he will be attending a meeting with the Golf Board tonight. There is also a meeting with the Snowmobile Grooming Committee tomorrow night that he will be attending.

Commissioner Jordon Stoddard has been working on construction projects. He is working on replacing the door to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Work has also started on the roof above the Courthouse. Commissioner Stoddard also stated that he will be attending the Snowmobile meeting.

Commissioner Skip Hurt reported that he has been on the panel to choose a new judge. He stated that it is quite a lengthy process. He also stated that he will be attending the Snowmobile meeting on Tuesday.

Donna Benfield & Hyrum Erickson(President Elect)/Rexburg Chamber of Commerce RE: 2013 Legislative Tour

Ms. Benfield introduced Hyrum Erickson as the President Elect of the Rexburg Chamber of Commerce. They presented some preliminary plans for the 2013 Legislative Tour. Mr. Erickson stated that every year the Legislature meets before the session begins. There are usually 60 to 80 people that attend the tour. These tours give the legislature the opportunity to get to know the area. It usually takes place towards the end of September on a Sunday, Monday and Tuesday and costs around \$30,000 - \$40,000. Most of the expense is travel. The Rexburg Chamber voiced interest in having a dinner on Sunday night, when they arrive, in Harriman State Park. The schedule for Monday and Tuesday is still being planned. They stated interest in showing them the Snake River Aquifer and explain to them the issues involved with it. The Chamber asked for \$5,000 to help support these activities and the expenses involved with this tour. They also asked for help and participation in planning these activities. Other areas of interest would be the Sand Hills and also Mesa Falls. Possibly even Henry's Lake if time allows. They would like people who are knowledgeable about these areas on the tour to talk about these places. Eurasian Watermilfoil and snowmobile issues would be some of the problems the commissioners would like to bring up on the legislative tour. Ms. Benfield stated that Madison County and City of Rexburg have both agreed to donate \$10,000 each. The commissioners agreed to discuss this and let the Chamber know what they decide.

St. Anthony Mayor Neils Thueson

Mr. Thueson wanted to say thanks for the work on the chip and seal of the city streets and wanted to thank the crews also. He also updated the commissioners on the work that will be happening on Twelfth Main reconstruction project. They have gone over the preliminary designs and the project has been moved up to begin in 2016 and may be moved up again. This project will affect people in the Parker-Egin area since one of the major roads will have to be closed. The work on Twelfth West will be done next year for the amount of \$15,000. Mr. Thueson stated that if there is enough money, they would like to do work on the curbing and gutter on this street. Mr. Thueson asked for

help from the county with the engineering design expense which will cost about \$2500. He also reported that they have been doing a lot of work at the airport. They have hooked up electricity to all the hangars. Commissioner Miller asked Mr. Thueson if there could be a sewer line hooked up at the fairgrounds. Mayor Thueson stated that he would check in to that. There was some discussion on the options of running a water line from the city out to the landfill for the upcoming landfill project. The commissioners also asked the mayor if his crew has the ability to lay the water line. Mayor Thueson stated that they could not lay the line but they could give direction on how to do it. With the pumps the city has put in, we might have the capacity to run the water for the landfill project.

Juvenile Probation Director Darin Burrell RE: Department Report

Mr. Burrell presented a Memorandum of Agreement for the commissioners to sign. Commissioner Hurt made a motion to sign the MOA with the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections and Fremont County. Commissioner Stoddard seconded. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Bruce Drewes/Road Scholars

Mr. Drewes explained what the Road Scholars Program is. County employees are given the opportunity to receive training and education by taking classes and receiving online instruction. The Annex building is currently serving as a training facility. The program recognizes these individuals and presents them with a certificate when they have completed the necessary requirements. Today, Mr. Drewes presented Public Works Director Marla Vik, and county employee Paul Heiner with a Certificate of Completion and also a hat and small leatherman. Mr. Drewes stated that the Road Scholars program is more of a technical level and the Road Masters program has more advanced courses. He also stated that it takes about 90 hours of the employee's time to complete the course. Ms. Vik stated that Blair Jones was the first in Fremont County to receive the Road Scholar certificate. Ms. Vik also stated that there are about ten or eleven county employees who are about to get their Road Scholar Certificate and some who are about to get their Road Masters Certificate.

Social Services – Debbie Adams Re: Indigent Claims

Commissioner 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 1:03 p.m. Commissioner 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 1:23 p.m. Commissioner Miller made a motion to approve case #G2012-93, case #M2012-40I, and case #M2012-43. Commissioner Stoddard seconded. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioners signed 1 new lien and 4 lien releases.

Public Works Director Marla Vik RE: Department Reports

Commissioner Skip Hurt signed a letter of compliance between Fremont County and Henry's Fork Properties, LLC acknowledging that the developer has met the requirements for construction of the county road relocating Fisherman's Drive.

Road and Bridge – The paving has been completed at Fish Creek. They will be finishing up the shoulder work today.

Landfill – Water samples will be pulled at the Island Park Landfill tomorrow. DEQ wants us to wait to get samples at St. Anthony until after the two new wells are in place. Tom Wood is getting quotes for the drilling this week. He expects it to be less than \$25,000 so we can get quotes instead of going to bid. The commissioners asked Ms. Vik to go ahead and contact Mike Rasmussen, president of the Egin Bench Canal Company, about the easement. Construction has started on the awning at the Island Park Landfill. Ms. Vik stated that she has contacted Mr. Buffy and the tree and brush grinding at the Meadow Creek gravel pit. He stated that he would do the grinding for free this year but would probably have to charge for it next year.

EMS Director Bob Foster RE: Department Report

Mr. Foster reported receiving a grant from Idaho Community Foundation for the amount of about \$2000 for equipment. Mr. Foster asked the commissioners if they would approve the balance of \$2500 for this project. Commissioner Miller made a motion. Commissioner Hurt seconded. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

His department has received \$108,500 for a new ambulance. Mr. Foster stated that he is finishing up paperwork to receive \$30,000 over this year and next from the BLM. This money will be set aside to use for projects at the Sand Hills over the next few years. He discussed plans for a building at the Sand Hills that would house a sand rail, an ambulance and other things that they would need there. Mr. Foster stated that his crew has made 406 runs to date this year. They have made 45 runs to the Sand Hills so far this year. He also reported revenue is at almost \$94,000. Mr. Foster stated that last Friday they were doing work to expand the Elk Creek Helicopter landing zone. Mr. Foster reported that training is going well. They have 13 people signed up for the new EMT class and 12 signed up for the EMT transition class. Mr. Foster also thanked the commissioners for the approved budget for their department.

Assistant Planning and Building Administrator Greg Newkirk

Mr. Wickham updated the commissioners on the vehicle for the planning and building department. They would like to trade in the trailblazer for a new vehicle. For a new vehicle it would cost about \$23,450. The dealership has agreed to give \$7500 trade in value for the used trailblazer. Clerk Abbie Mace stated that there is currently only \$15,000 budgeted for the vehicle. Commissioner Miller made a motion to buy the 4-door pickup for the amount of \$23,450 and have the company bring it back and take the remaining balance from emergency reserve. Commissioner Stoddard seconded. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Greg Newkirk presented the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law for The Woods Subdivision. Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to approve the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law for The Woods Subdivision. Commissioner Miller seconded. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Hurt made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to IC 67-2345(1)(f) To communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated. The mere presence of legal counsel at an executive session does not satisfy this requirement: at 2:08 p.m. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioner Miller voting "Aye", Commissioner Stoddard voting "Aye", and Commissioner Hurt voting "Aye". Commissioner Hurt declared the meeting open at 2:42 p.m.

Emergency Management Director Keith Richey RE: Department Report

Mr. Richey presented the commissioners with a grant application to sign. Commissioner Hurt made a motion to approve a grant from the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security for the amount of \$79,479. Commissioner Stoddard seconded. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Mr. Richey has been working with Liz Davey on the sustainable fire programs. His department has applied for two grants for the amount of \$53,000. Mr. Richey stated they will be doing two demonstration projects. He also reported meeting with Yale Creek about fires. Homeland Security has given a computer to Mr. Richey for his department. It will be a direct communication to Boise in case of an emergency. The School District has stated interest in doing a bomb threat exercise after the incidents that have occurred in Rigby. Mr. Richey reported that generators will be hooked up in St. Anthony and Ashton for back up fuel source. He also updated the commissioners on equipment that has been bought for the department. Mr. Richey is working on an emergency preparedness activity that involves the scouts in the area and hopes to hold an exercise where they can participate. He also talked about the procedures that have been put in place in case of a fire in the area and when to allow residents back in. Clerk Abbie Mace stated that because there have been new employees hired, we should go over evacuation plans in case of an emergency.

Commissioner Hurt made a motion to rescind the motion made to award the work on the Island Park Sewer to Forsgren Associates. Commissioner Stoddard seconded. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor. Commissioner Hurt made a motion to award the Island Park Sewer design work to JUB Engineering. Commissioner Miller seconded. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Hurt made a motion to amend the agenda to include discussion to nominate someone to the Idaho Capital Crimes Defense Fund Board. Commissioner Miller seconded. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor. Commissioner Miller made a motion to nominate John Weber from Madison County. Commissioner Stoddard seconded. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Quarterly Jail Inspection

Commissioners performed the quarterly jail inspection.

Miscellaneous

Commissioner Hurt made a motion to approve liquor license #19 to Dusty's Pit Stop, license #20 to El Jaliciense II, and license #21 to Rough Riders Saloon. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Hurt made a motion to sign and approve the final construction on Fisherman's Drive. Commissioner Miller seconded. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Hurt made a motion to approve the claims for September 10, 2012 as presented. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to approve Resolution 2012-25 adopting the policy and procedure manual of the Fremont County Emergency Medical Services. Commissioner Stoddard seconded. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to give \$5000 to the Rexburg Chamber of Commerce for the 2013 Legislative Tour. Commissioner Hurt seconded. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners 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