

**FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 14, 2013**

**Present for the meeting was:** Commissioners Lee Miller, Jordon Stoddard, and Bill Baxter.

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

Newly elected officers and their deputies were sworn in.

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

Commissioner Stoddard made the motion to elect Commissioner Miller as Chairman for the County Commissioners. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

**Elected Officials**

Commissioner Lee Miller thanked everyone for their confidence in him as commissioner. He also discussed the many changes that are occurring in Fremont County as far as building and growth. He encouraged all employees to use good ethics and remember that we are under the spotlight and to represent the county well. He promised to do the best that he can for the county. He is amazed at the amount of money that is spent on the juvenile system. Commissioner Miller also attended a snowmobile meeting in Island Park and stated the meeting went well.

Commissioner Jordon Stoddard thanked everyone for all they do and he enjoys working with everyone. He stated we have a great group of elected officials and they all work well together. He looks forward to the next four years. Attended the Juvenile Justice Region 7 Meeting and expressed appreciation for the work Darin Burrell does. Commissioner Stoddard also spent one night riding with one of the snowmobile trail groomers and stated he had a great time. He learned a lot more about what their job entails.

Commissioner Bill Baxter stated he has heard of great things happening in the county. He is grateful for the confidence of everyone. He stated he respects everyone in their positions and all that they do.

Assessor Kathy Thompson thanked the commissioners for the job they have done. She appreciates how well the commissioners have worked with her and supported her. Everyone has a tough job trying to please the people and she agrees we need honesty. Everything is going good in her office. She is pleased with the way her office looks. She thanked Commissioner Stoddard for working so hard on her office.

Treasurer J'Lene Cherry stated she would like to see everyone working together. She hopes to have good communication throughout the county. She enjoys seeing the commissioners come in to visit her office and is excited for a new year. Ms. Cherry reported tax cancellations for the month of December in the amount of \$43,721.37. Ms. Cherry reported there has been a problem with one of the employee's credit cards. Apparently there was some fraud going on with the card and they are still working on this. There was discussion on who in the county has credit cards and how they are to be used. Commissioner Miller questioned whether everyone that has a credit card really needs one. Ms. Cherry stated that she feels they do. The employees need to make sure they turn in their receipts for using the credit cards by the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. There has been a little bit of a problem with that.

Prosecuting Attorney Karl Lewies stated he was in Boise last week to follow the gun control debate and introduced himself to Senator Jim Risch. He is excited to be the county prosecutor and looking forward to working with everyone. He introduced Billie Siddoway as his Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney and spoke very highly of her. Ms. Siddoway has been working in Salt Lake City for a law firm in that area. She will serve as legal counsel for the county. She will work on the civil cases.

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Billie Siddoway stated it is fun to be back home. She looks forward to working with everyone.

Clerk Abbie Mace stated it has been a pleasure working with the commissioners and all the elected officials. She has worked with 13 different commissioners now. Dynamics change anytime we have new elected officials and she welcomes new ideas and changes. She is glad to hear of the experience of Ms. Siddoway and feels she will be good for the county. Ms. Mace stated she will be out of the office for the next two weeks. She has IAC legislative meetings on Wednesday. She also reported that Wednesday night is the public hearing on the Stoddard Brother's gravel pit appeal at 7:00 p.m. in the Annex Building.

Sheriff Len Humphries stated that he looks forward to working with everyone. He congratulated Commissioner Miller as being elected Chairman. Sheriff Humphries stated he thinks Fremont County is a great county to live in. He reported a busy week with lots of slide offs last week. He met last week with Parker Elementary and addressed some safety issues. There was also a meeting held with the South Fremont Fire District. Sheriff Humphries reported Winterfest in Island Park was not as busy as last year, possibly due to the cold weather. He reported 12 inmates in county custody today.

Commissioner Miller thanked Planning and Building Administrator Tom Cluff and Public Works Director Brandon Harris for the good things they are doing in the county and stated that he appreciates their work.

**Prosecuting Attorney Karl Lewies RE: Executive Session IC67-2345(1) (a&b)**

Commissioner Miller made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to IC 67-2345(1)(a) To consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent. This paragraph does not apply to filling a vacancy in an elective office; and pursuant to IC 67-2345(1)(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 10:35 a.m.

Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioner Miller voting "Aye", Commissioner Stoddard voting "Aye", and Commissioner Baxter voting "Aye".

Commissioner Miller declared the meeting open at 11:25 a.m.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to do a reduction in force by Resolution 2013-05.

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

Commissioner Miller made a motion to create a legal secretary position in the Prosecutor's Office. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

**Five County Detention Administrator Nicky Chavez RE: Personnel Issue**

Commissioner Baxter made a motion to amend the agenda to include an executive session IC67-2345 (1)(b). Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to IC 67-2345(1)(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 11:29 a.m. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioner Stoddard voting "Aye", Commissioner Miller voting "Aye" and Commissioner Baxter voting "Aye". Commissioner Miller declared the meeting open at 11:33 a.m.

**EMS Director Bob Foster RE: Bid Openings for Ambulance**

Mr. Foster presented three sealed bids for a new ambulance:

North Star - \$145,638.00

Rocky Mountain - \$142,900.00 (Ford Model)  
\$140,500.00 (Chevy Model)

Sawtooth Emergency - \$163,412.00 (Dodge 4500)

Commissioner Baxter made a motion to table the decision on the ambulance in order to let Mr. Foster review the different trucks and their specifications. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with Commissioner Miller and Commissioner Baxter voting in favor. Commissioner Stoddard was absent from the vote. He will gather all the information and report back on his findings at the commissioners meeting next week. The commissioners will then make a decision on which bid to go with.

**Assessor Kathy Thompson RE: Vehicle**

Ms. Thompson requested to trade out County Appraiser Kent Lords' vehicle. He currently uses a Trailblazer and it has about 132,000 miles on it. They would like to purchase a 2012 four-door Colorado for \$25,409. The commissioners directed Fleet Manager Justin Wickham to purchase the pick-up and sell the Trailblazer in surplus.

Commissioner Baxter made a motion to allow Fleet Manager Justin Wickham to buy the 2012 four door Colorado pick-up for \$25,409.00 through Smith Chevrolet in Idaho Falls. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed by two thirds vote. Commissioner Stoddard was absent from the vote.

Commissioner Baxter made a motion to amend the agenda to include an executive session IC67-2345(1)(a) with Planning and Building Administrator Tom Cluff. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed by two thirds vote. Commissioner Stoddard was absent from the vote.

**Social Services – Debbie Adams Re: Indigent Claims**

Commissioner Miller made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to IC 67-2345(1)(d) to consider records that are exempt from disclosure as provided in chapter 3, title 9, Idaho Code at 1:02 p.m. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioner Stoddard voting "Aye", Commissioner Baxter voting "Aye", and Commissioner Miller voting "Aye". Commissioner Miller declared the meeting open at 1:19 p.m.

Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to approve case #G2013-25 and case #G2013-27, and deny case #G2013-19. Commissioner Baxter seconded. A full voice vote was heard with all in favor.

Commissioners signed one new lien and two lien releases.

### **Planning and Building Administrator Tom Cluff RE: Department Report**

There was discussion on the power outage this morning and how it affected his office. Mr. Cluff stated he and Parks and Recreation Director Tamra Cikaitoga did cold weather training with the snowmobile groomers. They made sure the groomers are equipped with things that will keep them alive if they get stranded while grooming. The emergency kits needed to be stocked up and updated. They also realized the radios were not working very well so they are working to solve that problem. He will be starting employee evaluations within the next week. Mr. Cluff stated he will be attending some training in April. The training will be in Chicago for about a week. The commissioners questioned Mr. Cluff about getting a county credit card. Mr. Cluff stated as of now he would rather be reimbursed for his expenses than use a county credit card.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to IC 67-2345(1)(a) To consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent. This paragraph does not apply to filling a vacancy in an elective office; at 3:08 p.m. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioner Miller voting "Aye", Commissioner Stoddard voting "Aye", and Commissioner Baxter voting "Aye". Commissioner Miller declared the meeting open at 3:36 p.m.

### **Public Works Director Brandon Harris RE: Department Reports**

Road and Bridge – Mr. Harris stated John Searle will be hiring an attorney over the issue of plowing his roadway. Mr. Harris also stated they will be starting work on the Crosscut Bridge on 400 North this week. He will also be meeting with the canal company regarding the Chester Bridge and Crosscut Bridge.

Landfill – Mr. Harris reported he met with Teton County regarding their Transfer Station and got some good ideas on what we can do with the design of our Transfer Station.

Sewer – They have received the PER review for Mack's Inn.

Equipment – Mr. Harris stated he would like to buy a four wheel drive vehicle for the sewer department to use as a sewer video truck. He has been told that used ambulances are good for this kind of thing, therefore he is considering buying an ambulance to be able to review video on the sewer.

Mr. Harris would like to prepare a report that will show a five year capital improvement plan on equipment. Mr. Harris stated that he feels buying equipment rather than leasing would be a better option for the county. He stated the county now has twelve graders. In the winter season we need thirteen graders, so we are leasing one during the winter months. There was discussion on the excavator the county currently uses. Mr. Harris voiced concerns about it and stated it needs some repair work done. His goal is to have a five year plan to rotate the equipment out. Mr. Harris also stated has started having staff meetings. He would like to meet monthly with the supervisors and quarterly with everyone. He encouraged the commissioners to visit their department and do some on site visits.

### **Shaun Bills & Carlos Aponte RE: Wellness Report and Insurance**

Mr. Bills presented the findings of the Wellness Report. There was 100% participation by the employees. Mr. Bills also stated there are different training programs they offer to help improve health if the county chooses to use them. The commissioners stated the employees are to be commended for their participation.

### **Emergency Management Director Keith Richey**

Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to sign a letter that conveys commitment to the FY2013 Hazard Mitigation Systems Grant Application. For this project, Fremont County will commit a match of \$6,207.00. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Miller also signed a Sub-Grant Award Document in the amount of \$606.11.

Mr. Richey reported that training exercises are coming up in March. He also reported in June, they will do a functional exercise. He also requested that one or two people from each department do an online training. Clerk Abbie Mace suggested that the commissioners do an Incident Command Training. Mr. Richey voiced concern regarding ice build up on the Fall River by the crossing on Highway 20 in Chester. He is watching that area. Mr. Richey also reported his work vehicle is at 133,000 miles. He hasn't been having any problems with it, but wants to know if the commissioners would like him to trade out his vehicle. The commissioners directed him to go ahead and look for another vehicle.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to amend the agenda for an executive session IC67-2345(1)(a & b) to meet with ICRMP via phone call. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to IC 67-2345(1)(a) To consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent. This paragraph does not apply to filling a vacancy in an elective office; and pursuant to IC 67-2345(1)(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 4:07 p.m.

Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioner Miller voting "Aye", Commissioner Stoddard voting "Aye", and Commissioner Baxter voting "Aye".

Commissioner Miller declared the meeting open at 4:50 p.m.

### **Miscellaneous**

Commissioner Miller made a motion to approve the claims for January 14, 2013 as presented. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Baxter made a motion to approve the minutes from January 7, 2013. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

There was discussion on the After School Program in Island Park. The commissioners feel that this is a worthwhile program and would like to contribute money for that program again this year.

Commissioner Baxter made a motion to give the After School Program in Island Park \$1500 and to take the money from the sale of public property. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to accept and sign Resolution 2013-06 ordering destruction of county records maintained by the County Clerk's Office. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Baxter made a motion to accept and sign Resolution 2013-07 adopting a record retention schedule. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

There was discussion on the amount of money we should contribute to the 2013 Legislative Tour. The Rexburg Chamber of Commerce asked the county to contribute \$5,000 or whatever the county feels they can contribute. Commissioner Stoddard feels with the economy the way it is we should not contribute any money. Commissioner Baxter feels this would be money well spent. Commissioner Miller feels we should contribute some money towards this. Commissioner Baxter made a motion to contribute \$3000 to the 2013 Legislative Tour. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with Commissioner Miller voting "Aye", Commissioner Baxter voting "Aye" and Commissioner Stoddard voting "Nay". The motion passed by two thirds vote.

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

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LeRoy Miller, Chairman  
Fremont County Commission

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Abbie Mace, Clerk