

FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
February 25, 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, Treasurer J'Lene Cherry, Chief Deputy Sheriff Thad Garner, and Deputy Sheriff Bart Quayle

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

Deputy Sheriff Bart Quayle led the pledge. Commissioner Baxter offered the prayer.

Elected Officials

Chief Deputy Sheriff Thad Garner reported six inmates in custody and one in Madison. He stated there is a need for a new intox machine at the Sheriff's office. They would like to purchase two life lock machines rather than a new intox machine. These are portable machines and that way each of the sergeants would be able to have one. They stated that they don't want to purchase a new intox machine until the new generation model comes out. Mr. Garner also stated that they will be having the state jail inspection on March 27th at 9:00 a.m.

Treasurer J'Lene Cherry stated they are moving forward with pending issues and warrants of distraint. Ms. Cherry explained a little bit of how bankruptcies affect the county.

Assessor Kathy Thompson stated the appraisers are out every day appraising property and working hard to get everything done. They are still working on circuit breaker applications which are property reductions. This is a program for people who are over the age of 65. Ms. Thompson explained how people qualify for the circuit breaker program. They have also been working on putting the desks together in her office.

Clerk Abbie Mace stated Sid Keller brought in a bid to purchase some bleachers for the fairgrounds last week. She directed him to go ahead and order them. Commissioner Stoddard stated the ground will need to be prepped before the bleachers go in. There was discussion on all the work that needs to be done at the fairgrounds and everyone agreed there should be plenty of money left over to complete the other projects. There will be a legislative update conference call in the commissioners' room with Seth Grigg from IAC on Tuesday at 4:30. They will be updating everyone on legislative bills that they are tracking. Ms. Mace stated there are a large number of bills this year that are being tracked. Ms. Mace discussed some of the bills that are being proposed this year. There was discussion on the HRA VEBA account. Ms. Mace stated there will be a meeting with Tia Gilroy about this on March 27th at 9:30 in the commissioners' room. Ms. Mace reported attending a meeting with Commissioner Stoddard that dealt with the new affordable care act and the changes that will be taking place. She stated that this will probably cause some issues with the part time employees. Things are still unclear on that issue though. She discussed some of the issues that they talked about in that meeting. She also discussed how the insurance exchange program would work. The office will begin taking application for candidacy forms soon for the consolidated elections in May.

Commissioner Jordon Stoddard stated that he went over the transfer station designs with Brandon Harris last week. He attended the Lincoln Day Banquet and stated it was good. He appreciated Senator Crapo's talk because he made it sound a little bit more hopeful. Commissioner Stoddard spoke to Amy Taylor from Senator Risch's office about the Mount Jefferson closure. Ms. Taylor explained to him why they are proposing to close this area. Snowmobilers are being caught in the

closed area and because of this they is discussing to close the whole area. That is their main concern regarding this issue. Commissioner Stoddard also thanked the road and bridge crew for their work in plowing the roads after the storm. He felt they did a great job cleaning the roads. Commissioner Lee Miller stated he got a call from Senator Risch's office also about the Mount Jefferson issue. Mr. Miller stated that House Bill 116 was defeated last week and was suspended indefinitely. This was the bill that had to do with snowmobile registrations. They will be meeting with Nancy Merrill in her office on March 6th to discuss this some more with her to see if they can get this resolved.

4H Director Dana Miller

Ms. Miller updated the commissioners on all the activities and projects she has been involved with for the past months. She has just finished up an art project she has been working on with the 3rd graders. They learned how to make spinning tops out of a CD, a marble, and a cap to a pop bottle which she demonstrated for the commissioners. She also updated the commissioner on upcoming projects. She stated that she has applied to get some of the money back that was paid through 4-H registrations. She plans to buy sewing machines with some of the money she has gotten back. The beef weigh-in for 4-H is scheduled for March 16th. She stated she is going to be looking for summer help this year, so she will be advertising for this job.

Kara Hidalgo/Idaho Art Lab

Mr. Hidalgo updated the commissioners on projects they have been holding. He stated they are the largest art center in Idaho, however they do struggle financially. On February 8th and 9th, they hosted art organizations from all over east Idaho during the Eastern Idaho Assembly for the Arts. This brought speakers from as far away as Boise to talk about the arts and how it benefits the community. Mr. Hidalgo also updated the commissioners on upcoming events that they will be holding at the art lab. The commissioners thanked them for all the work they are doing and feel that the art lab is good for the community.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to amend the agenda to include an executive session IC67-2345(1)(b). Commissioner Baxter 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 10:56 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 12:00 p.m.

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 1:13 p.m. Commissioner Baxter 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 1:17 p.m. Commissioners signed 2 new liens.

Public Works Director Brandon Harris RE: Department Reports

Mr. Harris brought a quote in for what it would cost to put in a new fuel pump at the Ashton Road and Bridge facility. The existing tank would have to be drained in order to put in another pump. While the tank is empty, they would do some maintenance work on it. The overall price of the project would be \$20,958.16 plus an additional \$5,000 for a liner in the tank. They discussed with Ashton Crew Foreman Blair Jones over the phone the purpose for having an extra pump put in. The commissioners agreed to let the busses go ahead and fill up with fuel at the Ashton facility as it is now without upgrading the pumps and see how things go. They stated they will budget for fixing up the tank and putting in an extra pump next year.

Road and Bridge – The rebid for Stone Bridge will take place in the middle of March. He discussed the new estimates that have been received. Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to sign letter to LHTAC which states that we understand and accept the bidding process for Stone Bridge. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Mr. Harris will be meeting with the Forest Service to discuss Schedule A roadways on March 5th at 1:00 p.m. He also stated that work on the replacement of Chester Bridge started today. Mr. Harris attended a road oil seminar last week and he will meet with his crew Wednesday to discuss oil products.

Landfills – The DEQ submittal is complete and will be submitted this week. Dave Noel, from Forsgren, presented the designs for the St. Anthony Transfer Station. The commissioners discussed the plans with Mr. Noel. The plans include the scale but not a new administration building.

Mr. Harris also met with the Forest Service regarding the Island Park Landfill and was told that they will not renew our special use permit past 2015 or 2016. There is still capacity to use the landfill for 10 to 15 more years though.

Sewer – Waste Water Treatment Plant Improvement Design is at 50% drawings.

Equipment – Mr. Harris stated they really need to purchase some new road graders soon. Two of them have broken down. He would like to purchase 4 new graders which would cost approximately \$540,000. He stated that he has the money in his budget to buy them.

Mr. Harris also discussed some of the things that we need to fix in order to be Title 6 compliant. He stated that we must be compliant in order to get help with funding. He is going to work on creating a schedule in order to get things fixed so we are compliant.

Mr. Harris brought in quotes he received from Western States for the road graders. With all the discounts and trade-ins for the other graders it would cost \$515,980.41 to purchase three new CAT graders from Western States. He is working to find the best place to go for financing.

Commissioner Baxter made a motion to purchase three new CAT graders for approximately \$516,000. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

The commissioners discussed the possibility of hiring another employee in the Public Works department. They discussed whether there was really a need for another employee. The commissioners directed Mr. Harris to research this and determine if there is really a need to hire someone else and report back to them next week.

Deputy Clerk Debby Mace & Neil Ward RE: Certified Interpreter Training

Ms. Debby Mace reported that the court appointed interpreter that they are using needs to be certified. They have been instructed to use a certified interpreter in district court. Mr. Ward, who is the interpreter for the county, is willing to get certified but it is quite a bit of money. Ms. Debby Mace asked the commissioners if they would be willing to pay for the classes and training that he would have to attend to make him certified. She stated that it would cost approximately \$1,000. The commissioners stated that their concern with this is making sure he stayed in the area long enough for it to make it worth our money to have him certified. Mr. Ward stated he has recently moved back to the area and plans on staying here for a while. Mr. Ward also stated that if funds were provided for him to take these classes, he would then give the county a discounted rate for his services. He would also give Fremont County priority in his scheduling. He suggested a time frame of one to two years that he would commit to work for Fremont County. If he chose to leave before that time limit was up, he would then have to pay the county back. Commissioner Miller directed Clerk Abbie Mace work with Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Ryan Dustin to write up a contract that states that Mr. Ward will commit to work for Fremont County for two years. He would fill in what rate he will charge for the first year and then what he would charge for the second year.

Clerk Abbie Mace updated the commissioners on the status of the courthouse paper shredder. The one we currently use is about eight years old and is getting worn out. She presented a quote for a new shredder that she would like to purchase for the courthouse.

Commissioner Baxter made a motion to purchase a paper shredder for the courthouse for the amount of \$1,928.98 and to take the money from the General Fund. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Clerk Abbie Mace discussed the county policy that deals with not allowing a spouse or family member to travel in a county vehicle when traveling to meetings. ICRMP has stated that they feel it is safer to have someone riding with the county employee when traveling rather than traveling alone. The commissioners agreed to change that policy to allow family members to travel with the employee in a county vehicle. Each circumstance needs to come before the commissioners to be approved.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to allow Clerk Abbie Mace to take her spouse with her to her legislative committee meeting in Boise this week which amends the county policy from not allowing to allowing a family member to travel with a county employee and that the family member also has authority to drive the vehicle as long as the driver is 21 years or older. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Miscellaneous

Commissioner Baxter made a motion to approve the claims for February 25, 2013 as presented. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Baxter made a motion to sign and submit the grant application to Pacific Corp for \$5,000 for the art project in the courthouse. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with Commissioner Baxter voting "Aye", Commissioner Miller voting "Aye", and Commissioner Stoddard voting "Nay". Motion passes by majority vote.

Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to approve the amended minutes from February 19, 2013. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion. 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.

LeRoy Miller, Chairman
Fremont County Commission

Attest: _____
Abbie Mace, Clerk