

FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
June 3, 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 and Treasurer J'Lene Cherry

Commissioner Miller called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Commissioner Lee Miller offered the prayer and Sheriff Len Humphries led the pledge.

Elected Officials

Treasurer J'Lene Cherry reported her office has been busy collecting taxes. There are still about 40 pending tax issues. They will start advertising for the tax deeding process soon.

Sheriff Len Humphries reported eight inmates in custody this morning. He also reported the microwave link for their communications system went down over the weekend. Because of this they were not able to run license checks over the weekend and they had to use their backup radios. Sheriff Humphries stated this should be fixed today. IT Technician Josh Warnke is working on putting in a second link at another tower to use as a backup in case this happens again. Sheriff Humphries reported that their Humvee has been working really well at the sand hills and they have been using it quite a bit. He also reported that there will be a lot of people going to training this week.

Assessor Kathy Thompson stated that assessment notices went out today. She also reported that her employees are working 8-5 Monday thru Friday for the next few weeks in order to answer questions that people may have on their notices. Also, notices for personal property went out last Thursday and everyone should be getting those this week. Ms. Thompson stated that she is happy with the way things are going in the office. She stated that home values stayed the same this year. She thinks that cell towers are going to be an issue. Cell towers are permanent fixtures attached to the property. They were directed to list cell towers as permanent property, not personal property.

Clerk Abbie Mace has been working on budget last week. There are still a couple department heads that have not turned in their budgets yet and she is waiting on those. Meetings with the department heads will be set up on the 20th and 25th to go over their budgets. Ms. Mace stated that this is going to be a busy week for the courts. There is a four-day jury trial that starts tomorrow along with their other court hearings. She also stated that she will be attending meetings along with the commissioners next week in Meridian.

Commissioner Bill Baxter is back from visiting family in Washington D.C. and reported he is happy to be back. Mr. Baxter attended a Parks and Recreation meeting and dinner in Island Park where he was able to visit with State Park and Recreation Director Nancy Merrill. He also was able to attend a meeting with the Planning and Zoning Commission a couple weeks ago.

Commissioner Jordon Stoddard went to the Air Idaho Barbecue and was able to ride in the sand rail. He also reported that he has met with different people in the county about their concerns. Commissioner Stoddard spent some time last week going over the electrical issues at the fairgrounds. He stated that it looked like the electrician did a good job and everything should be up to code now. The new bleachers at the fairgrounds are going up fast and there are still a few more things they would like to do out there.

Commissioner Lee Miller reported on the new concession stand that they are building at the fairgrounds. He also attended and enjoyed the barbecue that was held at the sand hills. He was

able to take a ride in the sand rail while he was out there. Commissioner Miller stated that he will be attending meetings all week so this will be a busy week for him.

EMS Director Bob Foster RE: Department Report

Steve Jansen reported on the status on the building at the sand hills. He presented an option for a building that is 1000 square feet. He stated they cannot do a building bigger than this without approval from higher up in the BLM. If it needs to be a bigger building, we would have to maintain ownership of the building and the county would need to get a long term lease from BLM. Mr. Foster discussed his thoughts on the project. He would prefer the bigger building, but this would be a bigger cost to the county and it would take longer to complete. Mr. Foster stated that he could work with this plan that was submitted. Commissioner Miller asked about the county maybe buying out the BLM's half of the building in the future and then we could add on to it ourselves. Ms. Bautista stated she didn't think that would be a problem, but it is something she would need to research some more. Mr. Jansen stated that this building would be able to be built this year with the plans he submitted. Commissioner Miller stated that he thinks we should go with the plan that was submitted so we can start moving forward with the building. Ms. Bautista presented a Memorandum of Understanding for the commissioners to review between the county and the BLM since we will be working together on this project. The commissioners will have our attorney look it over before it will be signed.

Bid Opening – Mack's Inn Waste Water Treatment Plant

The following six bids were submitted.

- RSCI - \$972,441
- HK - \$798,688
- Knife River - \$985,000
- Edstrom - \$758,138
- DePatco - \$964,208
- Whitaker – \$1,287,400

Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to accept the apparent low bid of \$758,138 from Edstrom Construction upon review for compliance from Public Works Director Brandon Harris. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to amend the agenda to include an executive session IC 67-2345(1)(b). 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)(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 10:51 a.m. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioner Stoddard voting "Aye" and Commissioner Miller voting "Aye". Commissioner Baxter was absent from the vote. Commissioner Miller declared the meeting open at 11:18 a.m.

Emergency Management Director Keith Richey RE: Training and Wildland Fire Issues

Mr. Richey stated that the Island Park Sustainable Fire Committee will be holding a tour of the Island Park area on June 19th. There will be people from Washington DC that will also be attending this. He encouraged anyone who wants to attend, to do so. They will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the ranger station in Ashton. A lunch will be provided. Mr. Richey reported that they are predicting a dry summer so the likelihood of fires is high. The rain that we have received has helped the fire conditions however they are predicting a drying trend. Mr. Richey stated that an insurance agency and the BLM did a presentation on the Charlotte Fire that occurred last year. He would like to have them do a presentation for our area, especially the Island Park area. Mr. Richey discussed a grant that can be applied for when a fire happens but it has to be done when the fire is out of control. Roads are an issue in the Island Park area. Homeowners want the roads surveyed because there is controversy over who owns the roads and whose responsibility it is to maintain them. Mr. Richey would like to work on clearing away some of the trees and brush that are right next to the roadways.

Rick Jarvis, DEQ Leaking Underground Storage Manager RE: Ashton-Texaco site

Mr. Jarvis would like the county to reconsider assessing a tax value on the Ashton-Texaco site. By doing this, funds may be available to help in cleaning up this area. Because the property is currently listed at \$0 value, it limits the ability to anything down the road if money becomes available to help clean up this site. Mr. Jarvis stated that DEQ has done some clean up at this site already. Because of limited funds they could no longer continue. He would like to reassess this area and get a current status of things there. He stated that the current owners have not been very communicative with him in trying to resolve issues. Commissioner Miller stated that he would like to visit with our legal counsel to see what ramifications there could be by adding this property back to our tax rolls. It is possible, if the current owners don't pay the taxes, this property could be tax deeded to the county. If the county is the owner of the property, we could access funds to take care of the area.

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 1:03 p.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 1:09 p.m. Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to approve case #ML2013-4. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Ted Austin RE: Fall River Electric Proclamation

Mr. Austin stated that Fall River Electric Cooperative is celebrating their 75th Anniversary. He asked the commissioners to sign a proclamation designating Saturday, June 8th as Fall River Rural Electric Day. Commissioner Baxter made a motion to proclaim Saturday, June 8, 2013 as Fall River Rural Electric Day. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Public Works Director Brandon Harris RE: Department Reports

Road and Bridge – Mr. Harris stated that construction on 600 North (North Parker Road) starts tomorrow morning at 7 a.m. They will reopen the road each night at 5:30. He also stated that the Railroad meeting he attended last week went well and they have agreed to help fix two crossings next year. Ernie Seeley retired last month so they will be able to hire for his position the first of July. Mr. Harris reported on the meeting he attended regarding the entrance to Ashton Hill Estates Subdivision. This entrance is a safety concern. There is controversy over whether this is a county road or a private road. This road has never been maintained by the county. There are a couple of options for this area. A turning lane could be put in or build a new access to the subdivision. The Idaho Department of Transportation is going to do a safety study to see what the best course of action would be. Mr. Harris feels the state is pushing for a new entrance to the subdivision.

Sewer – Bids were opened for the Mack's Inn Waste Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Harris stated everything looks good with the bid that we received from Edstrom Construction who was the lowest bidder.

Landfill – They have been having some problem with copper being stolen at the landfill. Mr. Harris recommended buying some equipment that would strip the wires which we could then send to be recycled. He said it would cost about \$1000 – \$1500 to purchase the equipment. This money would be made up by the amount of money we get back from recycling. Mr. Harris also stated that we can get ready to advertise for bids on the Transfer Station.

Equipment – Mr. Harris stated that they were able to buy a part for the zipper in Salt Lake and it was cheaper to pick up the part than have it shipped. The zipper should be fixed by tomorrow.

Planning and Building Administrator Tom Cluff RE: Department Report

Mr. Cluff requested permission to purchase a tool box for the Parks and Recreation Director's county vehicle. The commissioners agreed to let them purchase a tool box. Mr. Cluff also reported that there will be a new intern starting tomorrow in the GIS Department. Mr. Cluff discussed with the commissioners having a survey done on the area by the Vernon Bridge where Mr. Fuchs wants to build a fence. Some of this ground is owned by the County and it would be good to know where the property lines are. He will meet with the prosecuting attorney about this before we decide to do anything.

Matt Hansen/Western Benefits RE: Employee Benefits

Mr. Hansen explained that his company does consulting on employee benefits. He also explained what his company does as far as handling compliance and legal issues. They also handle and examine data reports which help determine actual costs for insurance. The commissioners would like to meet with Mr. Hansen again after we get our new insurance renewals.

Weed Supervisor Bryce Fowler RE: Department Report

Mr. Fowler reported that the opening day for boat washes and inspections was unbelievably busy. They also had the education trailer at the Fisherman's Breakfast and stated that they gave away a lot of informational flyers. Mr. Fowler stated they have been having problems with pigeons and rock chucks at their building. The commissioners directed Mr. Fowler to contact the Fish and Game to find out what can be done to get rid of them.

Quarterly Jail Inspection

The commissioners performed the Quarterly Jail Inspection.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to amend the agenda to include discussion with Kathy Lords regarding issues with the property by the Vernon Bridge. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all in favor.

Ms. Lords stated she would like to see the property lines cleaned up to make this more presentable. She doesn't want to cause problems with the neighbors, but would like to work together with the neighboring land owners to get these things resolved. They are unsure of whose responsibility it is to maintain the fence and gate. They have had their property surveyed so they already have their property lines staked out. They may be interested in purchasing property from the county in order to clean up the property lines. The commissioners stated they will meet with their legal counsel to determine how to proceed.

Miscellaneous

Commissioner Baxter made a motion to approve the claims for June 3, 2013 as presented. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to approve the minutes from May 23, 2013. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to approve Lee Staker as a member of the Eastern Idaho Public Health District Board. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Baxter made a motion to approve putting in a culvert at 500 North at the railroad crossing. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

The county has received a check for \$3000 for the art project at the courthouse from a grant that was applied for through Rocky Mountain Power Foundation. The commissioners directed Clerk Abbie Mace to deposit this money into an Auditor's Trust Fund for now.

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

LeRoy Miller, Chairman
Fremont County Commission

Attest: _____
Abbie Mace, Clerk