

FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
July 1, 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, Weed Supervisor Bryce Fowler, Public Works Director Brandon Harris, IT Administrator Lisa Turner, Sewer Supervisor Dan Lostutter, 4-H Coordinator Dana Miller, County Agent Lance Ellis, Juvenile Probation Administrator Darin Burrell, Planning and Building Administrator Tom Cluff, EMS Director Bob Foster, Chief Deputy Sheriff Thad Garner, Deputy Sheriff Bart Quayle

Commissioner Miller called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Juvenile Probation Administrator Darin Burrell offered the prayer. Weed Supervisor Bryce Fowler led the pledge.

Elected Officials & Department Heads

Treasurer J'Lene Cherry stated that things are running smooth in her office. She reported that they have collected close to \$3.5 million for the June collection. She is currently advertising twenty-three parcels for tax deeding.

Assessor Kathy Thompson reported things went good the last three weeks. Her office has talked to 182 people regarding property values. Only six individuals will be meeting tomorrow for Board of Equalization and she is excited to get that done and over with. She also stated that they were able to meet with some people and go inside their cabins so they could adjust values a little bit.

Weed Supervisor Bryce Fowler stated that they have been busy with boat washes, reporting about 1150 boats. So far it looks like a record number of washes for this year. As of yet, they have not found anything during inspections. They will start aquatic sampling on the lakes in the next two weeks. Harriman Park Spray Day will be held on July 9th and several counties will be helping with that. Mr. Fowler also stated that the education trailer will be in Island Park all weekend. On July 24th, they will be teaching an invasive and noxious weeds class. They will also be having a big spray day on the Reclamation Road. There will also be a tour on Henry's Lake where they will talk about aquatic species on August 13th.

Sewer Supervisor Dan Lostutter thanked the commissioners for coming and helping them with a pipe patch repair in Island Park. That went very well. Mr. Lostutter reported that they have lifted about 28 manholes in the Stonegate subdivision and they will soon be finishing up in the Last Chance area. There was a power outage last night that Jon Brown has been working on which is the reason he could not attend the meeting this morning.

Public Works Director Brandon Harris reported they are working on typical road construction. They will start chip sealing throughout the county next week, starting in Ashton and working their way south. He stated that they will be using a new type of oil that should work better. They are going to fog coat some of the roads this year which should make the roads last 2-3 years longer. They will be doing some experimenting to see if this is the case. The work on Stonebridge was supposed to start last week but the paperwork was filled out incorrectly so the waiting period had to start all over again. Mr. Harris stated it probably won't be finished until August of next year. They hope to get the piers and girders for it done this year. Construction of the Transfer Station has been held up due to a wetlands letter. Mr. Harris has convinced them that this is not located in a wetland. He will need

to resubmit a few maps but they should be advertising for bid on the Transfer Station in the next two weeks.

Juvenile Probation Administrator Darin Burrell stated they are busy. They have been focusing a lot on community service projects and have been doing some projects at the fairgrounds. Mr. Burrell stated that if there is anything that the county could have them do they would be happy to help out. Mr. Burrell also reported sex crimes are staying about the same.

County Agent Lance Ellis stated that they have two events scheduled for this month. On July 11th, they will be holding a DSA meeting for all cattle producers. On July 25th, the Ashton Grain tour will be held in the morning and a lunch will be held at the Tetonia Station Research Center. People will be able to see what projects they are working on. He also reported receiving a lot of phone calls regarding bugs and herbicide spraying.

4H Director Dana Miller reported that ten 4H day camps were held in June. She also stated that forty-seven kids attended 4H camp. There are six day camps scheduled for the month of July and then they will be done with those. She reported that Commissioner Stoddard has been helping at the fairgrounds. Ms. Miller asked for some help handing out trophies at the county fair in August.

IT Administrator Lisa Turner reminded everyone to let her know about new employees so they can get them set up with keys and everything. She also gives out a packet to new employees. She also stated that the weekly newsletter has turned into a monthly newsletter. She doesn't receive enough information to send it out weekly. She also discussed having wireless internet available in the courthouse. Currently our county does not have it. Ms. Turner stated that it would be fairly inexpensive to get. Mr. Ellis stated that it would be handy for guest speakers to have access to it when they are holding meeting here or at the Annex. Mr. Burrell stated that it would be handy for them also. Clerk Mace stated the courts could use it. Ms. Turner also reported that they have removed most restrictions on the internet now and it will be up to the supervisors to monitor it in their departments.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Thad Garner has been pretty busy on patrol. There have been a lot of traffic stops. He reported five inmates in custody and one in Madison County. He also stated that boats have been patrolling out on the water.

EMS Director Bob Foster reported their run volume has been up by almost 50%. He also updated the commissioners on the status of the EMT testing and licensing that they have been doing reporting that all of our EMT's have passed the test. As of the 18th of June, the area medical director will review the skills and credentials on all the EMTs. The patient loading systems have been put in the ambulances and they have also been putting their new equipment into the ambulance and training on it. Mr. Foster stated they are still working on getting the radios up and running. He has also received the last set of the plans for the building at the sand dunes. He will visit more about those later with the commissioners.

Planning and Building Administrator Tom Cluff stated that building permits are consistently up. Parks and Recreation seems to be going well. People are out in force fishing and boating. Blake Bowman has been busy with the building inspections.

Clerk Abbie Mace reported on a gentleman who fell down the stairs a couple weeks ago. She reviewed the county policy regarding these types of incidents. Always make sure you let Ms. Mace know when something like this happens. Today, she will be presenting a resolution regarding notary services. As a county, we have decided not to charge notary fees anymore. Ms. Mace and Kristina Larson met last week with Computer Arts regarding online timesheets. We are going to be a demo county to see how well this works. Some of the departments will be doing their timesheets online on the county portal. The Sheriff's office will be part of the demo. She would also like Dan Lostutter's department to try this out. Ms. Mace stated that this will not work for all departments.

Training will be provided for the departments that are going to try this out. The Elected Officials 6th District Meeting will be held on July 11th at the park in Arco.

Commissioner Bill Baxter stated he really enjoyed being able to participate in repairing the sewer line in Island Park. He reported on the process involved with that. He stated that it was a very worthwhile day learning about the sewer system. He also attended the Fire Sustainability Meeting last week. Commissioner Baxter reported on the bus tour to the Yale Creek Subdivision. He stated that evacuation would be a major problem if there was a fire in this area and it was interesting to learn what they are trying to do to solve the problem.

Commissioner Jordon Stoddard also attended the Sustainable Fire Meeting. People are working to try and put a plan together to help with this problem. The main thing that needs to happen is getting people in and out of this area in case of emergencies. He reported on his visit to the Island Park Sewer area stating he is amazed at their efficiency. Friday, he met with a roofer regarding the roof on the Senior Center in Ashton. He also visited the Search and Rescue Building and reported on some things that need to be fixed there.

Commissioner Lee Miller reported that they went up to the Yale Creek Subdivision on Friday. He stated that the roads are terrible in this area. He also checked on a road in the Island Park area that needs to have some work done to it. Commissioner Miller met with the St. Anthony city council the other night and voiced his concerns on having two major roads closed to the Parker area, due to road construction, which limited access to and from that area. He has received a lot of phone calls about roads in Island Park being closed. He also discussed using the internet at work. He wants employees to be able to access the internet if they need to for their job. Commissioner Miller thanked everyone for visiting with them on their budgets. He also stressed the importance of using the Fleet Manager within their departments. He feels it does save the county money if we will utilize it, but employees will need to schedule the vehicles through Justin Wickham. Commissioner Miller asked what could be done to make the county website better. Ms. Cherry stated that we need to let Lisa Turner know about information that needs to be put on there. Mr. Ellis stated that he gives all his information Ms. Turner to put on the website. It makes it a lot easier for him. Commissioner Miller stated that he wants the county to be informed of everything that is going on. Commissioner Miller expressed his appreciation for the great county that we live in and for everything the employees are doing to help make it great. Commissioner Baxter also expressed his appreciation for the service that the employees give back to the area. Commissioner Stoddard also expressed his appreciation to everyone.

Extension Agent Lance Ellis RE: Budget

Lance Ellis and Dana Miller reviewed with the commissioners their budget requests for FY2014.

Dana Miller stated that they would like to purchase a new scale for the fairgrounds to weigh pigs and sheep. The cost would be about \$2100. Commissioner Stoddard stated that we could come up with some money to pay for the scale. Possibly with money left over from the bleacher project. Ms. Miller stated that they have also been doing a lot of work at the fairgrounds fixing up pens. They also discussed putting in additional water line. The Livestock Committee might be willing to pay for the water line if the County pays for the scale.

Forest Service District Ranger Liz Davey RE: Road Closures

Liz Davey stated that the trail at Bear Gulch will be worked on when the work camp crew comes back from fighting fires. She stated that the County needs to supply a gate for this trail. Sheriff Humphries also discussed other roads that have been closed. He needs to have access on some

of these roads for emergency situations. Ms. Davey stated that one of these roads (Federal Hill Road) has not been an open road for a long time. Sheriff Humphries has been concerned with the increased amount of river traffic. They need to have access to the river areas in order to respond to potential emergency situations. Some of their access roads are closed. Ms. Davey said that the State has been closing some of these roads. She also stated that they closed some of the roads in order to keep recreational vehicles out of areas they should not be in. Ms. Davey suggested going to view these roads with Sheriff Humphries because she feels they are discussing two different areas. She also suggested using East Hatchery Road or Riverside Road to get access to the river.

Commissioner Miller discussed the agreement with the Forest Service regarding reimbursements for fires with Ms. Davey. Ms. Davey explained that this is no different than the other agreements that have been signed. The first 12 hours the Forest Service helps are free of charge. After that the county reimburses the Forest Service. Abbie questioned why the county would enter into an agreement when we have four fire districts that are responsible for things such as this. There are some areas that are not within a fire district and these areas would fall under the Sheriff's responsibility. The commissioners are not going to sign the agreement until there is more clarification on it.

Ms. Davey also informed the commissioners that the Forest Service is proposing to close more trails to recreational vehicles. This could restrict the amount of trails that can be used. Eventually, they would like to provide a map that would show the trails and roads for recreational vehicles.

Commissioner Miller discussed with Ms. Davey the rumors of possibly making the Yellowstone Caldera and Mesa Falls a national monument. If this happens, the area would then fall under the Department of Interior and they have their own set of rules and regulations. The US Department of Agriculture would no longer have a say in what happens in this area. Ms. Davey discussed the restrictions that would be placed on the area if this were to happen.

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 1:00 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 1:14 p.m. Commissioners signed six new liens.

Public Works Director Brandon Harris RE: Department Report

Fleet Manager Justin Wickham discussed a resolution that the commissioners approved regarding purchasing oil and having area businesses do some of our service work. Mr. Wickham stated that he can do most of the service work himself and save the county a lot of money. These jobs need to be scheduled to ensure that he has time to do the work because he has other responsibilities as well. He can also buy oil in bulk so it is less expensive. Employees should be contacting Mr. Wickham if there needs to be any maintenance work done on county vehicles. If he doesn't have the time to work on it, he will then refer them to an area business to do the work. Mr. Harris suggested sending out an email to remind everyone that they should be consulting with Mr. Wickham on county vehicle maintenance issues.

Mr. Harris presented the bids for pick-ups that the Road and Bridge Department would like to purchase.

Smith Chevrolet	\$25,209/No Power windows
Smith Chevrolet	\$25,970/Power windows
Salmon River Motors	\$27,110/Power windows
Salmon River Motors	\$26,350/No Power windows
St. Anthony Motors	\$26,243.34/Power windows
St. Anthony Motors	\$25,482.26/No Power windows

Smiths Chevrolet had the lowest bid for a ¾ ton Chevy extended cab pickup in the amount of \$25,970. Mr. Harris stated they have some money in their budget to purchase it. They will have to take \$1100 from the sale of the road grader to make up the difference. Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to open the budget in order to move \$1100 to another budget line to purchase the pickup. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Mr. Harris reported that the roadside mower needs to be repaired. It will cost \$8100 to fix it or \$8900 to purchase a new one from Madison County Implement. Commissioner Miller made a motion to purchase a new John Deere mower from Madison County Implement for \$8900. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all in favor.

Mr. Harris received a quote for a loader that needs to be purchased for the Island Park Landfill. A two year lease would cost \$15,700. That would include a warranty. He would like to take the money from this year's budget to pay for this. Mr. Harris stated that they would still keep the old loader as a back-up. He will contact the banks to find out who can give us the best interest rate.

Planning and Building Administrator Tom Cluff RE: Department Report

Mr. Cluff met with Bill Smith and talked about surveying and vacating the roads in Big Hills Estates. Before proceeding with vacating the roads, Mr. Smith is going to visit with all the property owners along the roads to make sure they agree with vacating the roads. Mr. Cluff stated that vacating the roads may not be an option with some of our other subdivisions. He also stated that he needs to visit with Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Ryan Dustin about a new ruling handed down by the Supreme Court regarding subdivisions and Idaho's Land Use Law.

Stephanie Prestwich RE: Late Property Taxes via phone

The commissioners tried to contact Ms. Prestwich by phone to visit with her about her late property tax but there was no answer.

EMS Director Bob Foster RE: Sand Hills Building

Mr. Foster presented and reviewed the plans for the building that will be built at the Sand Hills. Commissioner Stoddard and Mr. Foster will try to meet with the architect next week to go over the plans more in depth.

Lois Melvoin RE: Late Charge & Interest on Taxes via phone

Ms. Melvoin stated that her husband died in March and as she was going through paperwork recently, she came across the tax bill that was due in June. She immediately sent in a check for the amount due. Ms. Cherry stated that she did receive a check for the second half of the taxes, but because they were late, late charges and interest had accrued. Ms. Melvoin's check did not include the late charges and interest. Ms. Melvoin would like the commissioners to forgive the late charges and interest that had accrued. The late charges amounted to \$168.78. The commissioners stated that they were sorry for her loss but will not be able to forgive the late charges. Ms. Melvoin will need to pay the late charges in the amount of \$168.78.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to amend the agenda to talk with Treasurer J'Lene Cherry about tax deeding. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Ms. Cherry received a phone call from a gentleman regarding two parcels that were tax deeded last year. There is another one to be tax deeded this year. This man has collected enough money to redeem his property, but it is not enough to pay the taxes for 2013. In order for them to redeem it, all taxes have to be paid for all the years including 2013. He would like to pay \$17,000 and then pay \$2000 a month until it is paid off. He would have to pay \$30,000 to keep it from being tax deeded. Clerk Abbie Mace stated that she doesn't think by law that we can work with him because the property is already in the tax deeding process. There are guidelines and rules that the county must follow when properties are tax deeded.

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 3:06 p.m. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioner Stoddard voting "Aye" and Commissioner Miller voting "Aye" and Commissioner Baxter voting "Aye". Commissioner Miller declared the meeting open at 3:13 p.m.

Miscellaneous

Commissioner Baxter made a motion to approve the claims for July 1, 2013 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 the minutes from June 24, 2013 and June 25, 2013. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with both commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to approve Resolution 2013-15, adopting amended notary public services policy. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

The commissioners discussed contributing money to the Idaho Art Lab. Commissioner Miller entertained a motion to contribute money. The motion died on the floor.

Commissioner Miller directed Commissioner Baxter to set up the arrangements for the commissioners to ride in the parade on the 27th of July.

Commissioner Miller chose to schedule the Employee Summer Picnic on Thursday, August 15, 2013.

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

LeRoy Miller, Chairman
Fremont County Commission

Attest: _____
Abbie Mace, Clerk