

FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
July 8, 2013

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

Also attended by: Clerk Abbie Mace, Deputy Clerk Laura Singleton, Sheriff Len Humphries, and Treasurer J'Lene Cherry

Commissioner Miller called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Clerk Abbie Mace offered the prayer. Commissioner Jordon Stoddard led the pledge.

Elected Officials

Sherriff Len Humphries stated that last week was a real busy week for them. He reported eleven inmates in custody today. He stated that he has never seen Island Park so full, referring to the traffic. They hit traffic pretty hard. He also reported that the Sand Hills were pretty quiet last week even though they were full. No incidents were reported there. The comment period is open now on the Island Park OHV Trails and will remain open until July 26th. Clerk Abbie Mace stated that Parks and Recreation Director Tamra Cikaitoga is going to put some comment together that will be submitted for the county. The Forest Service is proposing to decommission several of the roads. Sheriff Humphries is concerned about roads that are closed but have no signs saying that they are closed. If people are caught on these roads, they will still be ticketed even though there are no signs posted. The closed roads will only be shown on maps.

Treasurer J'Lene Cherry is busy trying to get taxes collected from 2009. She was able to finally make contact with one of the businesses that she has had a hard time getting in touch with. There are still a couple issues that the commissioners are meeting about today regarding late taxes. Ms. Cherry reported that she is getting ready to send out delinquent notices.

Clerk Abbie Mace has been trying to work on budget and almost has everything entered. She will be out of the office on Thursday and Friday. Tomorrow she will be attending the Five County and Tri-County Board Meetings. Friday is the governing board meeting for the drug court at 9:00 a.m. On July 23rd, the artwork that will be in the courthouse will be unveiled. There will also be a dinner at the Annex that day at noon.

Commissioner Bill Baxter had nothing to report this week.

Commissioner Jordon Stoddard didn't have anything to report.

Commissioner Lee Miller reminded everyone that there will be a public hearing on a road vacation next Monday. He also reported on the BOE hearings last week. He has meeting that he will be attending this week. He also discussed some information he received in regards to evaluations with employees.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to amend the agenda to discuss the HUD Grant with Tom Cluff. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Planning & Building Administrator Tom Cluff suggested using money from the HUD Grant in order to research how making the Yellowstone Caldera and Mesa Falls a national monument could impact our area. He would like to see what options the county has to prevent this from happening and also what options we have if this were to happen. He can research the economic impact this

could have to our area. The commissioners would like to see the money be spent for something such as this and directed Mr. Cluff to proceed with this.

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 10:08 a.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 10:30 a.m.

Brian Tierney RE: Late Taxes

Mr. Tierney is representing his mother who lives in the county. He stated that his mother has been ill, but he thought that she was attending to everything here. Last year, forms were sent to his mother but they were not returned to us. So he is filling out the forms again this year. He would like to resolve things at least for the year 2009. He would like to eventually put this property up for sale. This is bare ground. He has enough funds to pay for the 2009 taxes without the late charges interest. He didn't realize that things were not finished on his mothers end. After the 2009 taxes are paid, he will then address the 2010 taxes and hopes to have them paid within six months minus the interest and penalties.

Commissioner Miller stated that they do not normally forgive the interest and penalties on late taxes. Commissioner Stoddard and Commissioner Baxter both feel that it isn't right to forgive the late fees for people who didn't pay on time when there are people who do pay on time. Commissioner Miller suggested that they cut the penalties and interest in half on the 2009 taxes which would then make the total for 2009 \$3,068.04. Commissioners Stoddard and Baxter both agreed to this. Treasurer J'Lene Cherry asked that the check be sent overnight.

Commissioner Baxter made a motion to forgive half the penalty and interest that has accrued for the 2009 taxes for Mr. Tierney in the amount of \$493.54 making the total that needs to be paid \$3,068.04. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Mountain States Monitoring Service

Mr. Palmer introduced himself to the commissioners and informed them that his company provides monitoring bracelets for individuals who are on probation or in-house arrest. Ms. Palmer explained how the bracelets work. Their bracelets differ from the older bracelets in that they not only track for GPS purposes but also track chemical usage. This company owns the bracelets and loan them out. They would be the ones to install and remove the bracelets. They demonstrated how these work for tracking purposes. They hope to be able to supply probation officers with information to help make their jobs easier. Ms. Palmer also provided an example of what a report would look like with someone who had taken the prescription drug Hydrocodone. Because Hydrocodone has large amounts of opiates in it, the bracelets have sensors that can detect the opiates. Ms. Palmer stated the best thing the bracelets do is provide information of where people are and what they are doing. The purpose of their visit here today, is to request that they take a good look at this option in order to help the probation officers. They install and remove the bracelets. They also have ways to limit the areas that people wearing the bracelets have access to.

Lynn Dickerson reviewed the costs of these monitoring bracelets. He stated that the preferred method of payment is to have the offender pay for them. There is an activation fee of \$75.00. After that, there is a \$12.50 per day cost.

Mr. Dickerson explained the different options the county has in covering the costs involved. He also stated that they have had a lot of success with the people that they have put these bracelets on.

Mr. Burrell stated he is skeptical because what he has seen in the past is that companies would give Idaho older equipment to use. He also stated that there is not a consistent need for these in Fremont County. We might only need these a couple times per year. Mr. Burrell does like that this company is local. The biggest challenge would be the cost for a small county like us. Mr. Dickerson stated that there are no contracts and the county would only use these when they need them. Mr. Burrell stated that they usually have the offenders pay, but each circumstance is different. The county's adult probation officer stated that it is hard to collect fees. Mr. Dickerson stated that they would have to pay up front to use the bracelets. Mr. Burrell also stated that this would be a great tool to go to court with.

Don Brower RE: Late charge on taxes

Mr. Brower stated that he was out of the area, due to health issues, when his taxes came due in June. He stated that he came in and paid the taxes, but there were late charges that had accrued totaling \$52.62. He is asking forgiveness of the penalties and interest. The commissioners agreed to forgive the tax penalties and interest in the amount of \$52.62.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to waive the late charges and interest in the amount of \$52.62 for Don Brower. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Public Works Director Brandon Harris RE: Department Report

Road and Bridge – Mr. Harris reported that they have started chip sealing today in Ashton. There will be an Ashton Hills Estate Meeting tomorrow night at 6:00 p.m. They will be discussing the safety audit that was done at the entrance to the Ashton Hills Estates Subdivision. The State has determined that they will not be putting a turning lane in at this entrance. The State would like to have a new access into this subdivision built, but they want the County to build it. If another access was provided, the State would close the first access. Mr. Harris would like to know what the County's stance will be on this before he attends the meeting. Mr. Harris admits that this is a bad intersection, but he feels that this isn't just the county's responsibility and that the State should share it. Mr. Miller would like the county to help in some way, but he also feels the State needs to come forward with some options too. It was the State that granted the access to the subdivision in the first place. Mr. Harris feels it would still be less expensive to put in a new turning lane rather than constructing a new road.

Landfill – Madison County will accept our plastic for \$.03/lb. We take about 2,000 lbs. every two months, so this would cost the county about \$30/month or \$360/year. Mr. Harris also reported that he has been approached by some people in Island Park who are trying to clean up what is left of the Sunset Lodge after the fire. Mr. Harris has given them permission to haul only the old lumber to the Meadow Creek Slash Pit. He also told them that this would be a one-time deal.

Sewer – The Forest Service did the assessment on Goshawks in the area and none were found, so we can proceed with the upgrades to the treatment plant and spray field.

Equipment – Mr. Harris is in the process of getting quotes from the banks regarding the interest that will be charged for the lease of the loader for the Island Park Landfill.

Commissioner Baxter made a motion to open the budget in order to put \$22,000 from WW Clyde for the Road Project at the Ashton Dam into the Special Road Project Line. Commissioner Stoddard 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 discuss the medical insurance renewals. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to accept the medical insurance renewals from Pacific Source at a 9% increase. Commissioner Stoddard 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 discuss items that are scheduled on the agenda. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Miller stated that Madison County allows about thirty minutes at the start of each meeting for the public to comment. If there is a specific thing that needs to be discussed that would need more time, then they would have to make an appointment. Commissioner Miller felt that this would be a good idea and it would give the public a chance to have their voice heard. The commissioners felt that this might be good as long as they could just listen to the comments and they weren't required to respond. Commissioner Miller stated that this was just an idea he wanted to share with the others.

Miscellaneous

Commissioner Baxter made a motion to approve the claims for July 8, 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 the Board of Equalization Hearings on July 2, 2013. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with both commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to sign the modified agreement with the Forest Service regarding billing protocol for the Law Enforcement and Annual Operating Plan. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Baxter made a motion to approve the junior college applications for Denton Allen and Brittney Leavitt to College of Southern Idaho. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to approve Resolution 2013-16, to increase the per diem of jurors to \$20.00 per day, \$10.00 per half day effective October 1, 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