

FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
August 5, 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, and Sheriff Len Humphries

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

Elected Officials

Assessor Kathy Thompson stated that things are good in the office even though Mike Jones is gone now. It has been pretty quiet and the appraisers have been out working. All of the appeals that were heard at the Board of Equalization will be going on to the state level and there was discussion on how the tax appeals work at the state level. Ms. Thompson reported that Jeremy Dixon will represent the county at those hearings which will be held here in Fremont County. The date has not been set on those hearings yet.

Sheriff Len Humphries reported that they have an inmate in custody that is on a parole violation that needs to have some surgery done and he has been working on that this morning. He also reported that things with the 24th Celebration went well. Traffic went smoother than ever before according to some people. Sheriff Humphries stated that they are getting ready to go out to the fair this week. They will be setting up an air rifle range for the kids. He reported there are 14 people in custody today. He also reported that Idaho State Police will be sending another officer to help patrol Island Park because of all the traffic. Commissioner Miller asked about the signs and painting of the road that was to be done at the entrance area to Ashton Hill Estates located on the Ashton Hill. The Idaho Department of Transportation was going to do the work there but it hasn't been done yet and they are reaching the end of their time limit to have that done.

Clerk Abbie Mace stated she has been working on the budget. She will be meeting with the commissioners tomorrow to work on that. She was contacted last week by someone who wants to expand the mosquito abatement district. She told them they will need to meet with the commissioners before this can even be put on the ballot. They will also need to gather signatures and meet with the Mosquito Abatement Board. Ms. Mace asked Commissioner Miller if he was able to contact the relief driver for the Grandparent Program. She needs to know if we need to open up that position. Commissioner Miller stated that he still needs to visit with him.

Commissioner Bill Baxter visited with family all last week and attended reunions. He stated he had a pretty easy week. He reported he will be attending a dog show at the fair this week.

Commissioner Jordon Stoddard stated he thinks the fairgrounds are in really good shape this year for the fair. They installed three more water hydrants and also expanded the sale ring. A new scale was purchased to weigh the animals. 4H Director Dana Miller has been working hard on the fair along with Sid Keller. Commissioner Stoddard stated he should be receiving a bid to fix the roof on the cooling sheds. As soon as that is approved, they will get started on it. He also visited with Steve Jansen on the plans for the building at the Sand Hills and stated that they about have those finalized.

Commissioner Lee Miller stated that he dealt with a few odds and ends last week. They will be meeting on the budget tomorrow and stated that he has appreciated all those who turned in their budgets.

Assessor Kathy Thompson RE: Assessor's Report

Commissioner Miller made a motion to sign authorization for Kent Lords to have a credit card. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Assessor Kathy Thompson stated that they created a new job description for Joy Angell so she will be given more responsibility along with a raise in pay. She will be an Appraiser II at a grade 9 step 1. Kent Lords was moved into the Head Appraiser position. They will be hiring later this year for a new appraiser. They are advertising right now for that position. She discussed the schooling and testing that is involved to become an appraiser.

Ms. Thompson also asked for approval to raise the amount of money set aside to pay the outside appraiser Jeremy Dixon to \$35,000 which would allow him to do more work. He is only paid by the parcel so it is possible that this amount may not be fully used. The commissioners will think about this when they discuss the budget tomorrow and decide if they will be able to do this.

Dale Potter RE: Ambulance Concerns

Mr. Potter discussed his concerns regarding the Ashton ambulance crew and asked for an update on what has been done concerning this. Commissioner Miller stated that more training has been done and letters have been sent out to people who have left the crew asking them to come back. Mr. Potter asked why none of these people have returned yet. Commissioner Stoddard reported that he has visited with some of the people and so have Commissioner Baxter and Commissioner Miller.

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 10:29 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 10:46 p.m.

Karl Lewies/Executive Session IC67-2345(1)(f)

Commissioner Miller made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to Idaho Code 67-2345(1)(f) to communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated. The mere presence of legal counsel at an executive session does not satisfy this requirement at 10:48 a.m. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioner Miller voting "Aye", Commissioner Baxter voting "Aye" and Commissioner Stoddard voting "Aye". Commissioner Miller declared the meeting open at 10:59 a.m.

Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to amend the agenda to discuss the repair work for the roof on the Ashton Senior Citizens Center. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Stoddard received a bid to repair the roof on the Ashton Senior Citizens Center for the amount of \$24,825. Commissioner Stoddard feels really good about using this company to do the work. They have done work for the county before and have done a good job. Commissioner Baxter made a motion to approve paying \$24,825 to Elite Roofing Systems for repair work to the roof on the Ashton Senior Citizens Center. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Donna Benfield & Hyrum Erickson RE: 2013 Legislative Tour

Mr. Erickson updated the commissioners on the 2013 Legislative Tour and what they have planned. They have the itinerary set now with possibly a little wiggle room to make adjustments. They are now working with caterers on the food arrangements. He stated that on the first day, Sunday, September 22nd, they plan on taking a tour of Mesa Falls and along the way they will pass some potato fields. They will also travel to Harriman State Park that evening and eat dinner there. This is the day that will be spent mostly in Fremont County. Monday will be spent mostly in Madison County and later that afternoon they will go to the Sand Dunes where they will talk about aquifer recharging. On Tuesday, they will travel to Yellowstone Bear World and have lunch there before they return home.

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 Miller voting "Aye", and Commissioner Baxter voting "Aye". Commissioner Miller declared the meeting open at 1:26 p.m.

Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to approve case #M2013-91, approve case #M2013-151, deny case #M2013-35, approve case #M2013-36, deny case #M2013-37, deny case #M2013-29, approve case #M2013-41, and approve case #M2013-33. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioners signed two new liens and four lien releases.

Public Works Director Brandon Harris RE: Department Report

Road and Bridge – Mr. Harris reported on the progress of the construction on Stonebridge. The county is done with chip sealing the roads now. They are working on the city streets in Ashton now. He also reported that the broom to sweep off the roads broke down last week so they are looking into renting one. Mr. Harris will be attending a meeting in Boise on Thursday to negotiate the contract for design on the Ora Bridge. Commissioner Miller directed Mr. Harris to put up some signs on Chad Mackert's road (2300 East) that alerts people about the sharp curve to the road.

Landfills – Last Thursday, they advertised for bid on the St. Anthony Landfill Transfer Station. The bid opening for that project will be on August 19th at 10:20 a.m.

Sewer – Mr. Harris reported on the progress that has been made on the Mack's Inn Waste Water Treatment Plant. Right now they are in the process of clearing the trees for the spray field.

Equipment – Mr. Harris stated that they need to buy a new loader for the Transfer Station and they would like to purchase it with money out of this year's budget. He will be gathering quotes in order to purchase a loader.

EMS Director Bob Foster RE: Department Report & Executive Session IC67-2345(1)(d)

Mr. Foster stated that they are still doing really well this year. He complimented Molly and Lisa on their good working relationship with IMS. Mr. Foster stated that the carpet in the Ashton EMS Building is really bad. He brought in estimates on how much it would cost to replace it. Mr. Foster stated that Dura Bright has been doing their carpet cleaning and offers a 50% discount for EMS. The cost would be split with the Fire Department so it would cost approximately \$2200 for each. Commissioner Baxter made a motion to accept Wynn's Furniture bid to do the carpet in the Ashton EMS Building for the amount of \$4,652 minus \$175 because the furniture can be move out before they come to install the carpet. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Mr. Foster presented a bid for a power load system for the Ashton ambulance and the Island Park ambulance. The bid is in the amount of \$35,588.70. Mr. Foster stated that they do have money in their budget to cover this. The commissioners will give this some consideration and put this back on the agenda to discuss on August 19th.

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 2:15 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 2:39 p.m.

Commissioner Baxter made a motion to hold a hearing regarding repeat patient billing and to include Summit Air on the new patient billing worksheet. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Weed Supervisor Bryce Fowler RE: Sign Agreement with PacifiCorp

Mr. Fowler presented an agreement with PacifiCorp for the commissioners to sign. Mr. Fowler also stated that the date has been changed on the Henry's Lake Tour. The training and seminar will now be held on Thursday, August 15th at 10:00 a.m. Those who want to attend that need to meet at the Weed Building at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to sign the contract with PacifiCorp. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Planning & Building Administrator Tom Cluff RE: Dept. Report & Presentation by Jan Brown

Mr. Cluff stated that building permit numbers for June and July were down a little bit. However the values of the buildings were up from last year. Ms. Cikaitoga will be out of the office for the rest of this week. Mr. Cluff reviewed the process of obtaining a building permit when the property is within a homeowners association.

Jan Brown introduced herself and stated that she has been a homeowner in Fremont County. She currently has been running the Yellowstone Retreat Society. She reported on a phone conversation she had several years ago regarding making the Yellowstone Caldera a national monument and the history behind it.

Jim Caswell introduced himself and stated that he retired from the Forest Service. He then became the director of BLM under Governor Kempthorn. During the Bush Administration, he was asked to take a look at some of the areas in Idaho that could possibly be made into a national monument. He discussed the history of how past presidents have designated certain areas as national monuments as part of their agenda before they leave office. That is how the rumblings started of making Mesa Falls and the Yellowstone Caldera a national monument. He stated if this is to work in the county's favor it needs to start at the local level. It is about preserving long term how we feel this area is to be used. Jan Brown was contacted by several groups to give tours of the area. She would like to research the impact this would have on the area if it was given the national monument recognition and what types of funding would become available. She believes we could work with the Federal agencies and pool money together to work on this project.

Commissioner Miller stated that the biggest fear of his and the residents of Fremont County is that things will be taken away. If we lost the ability to function year round in this area, Island Park would die.

Commissioner Baxter stated that the fears came from what happened in Utah regarding Staircase. Jan Brown stated that she thinks it is in the county's best interest to approach this from the local level and up. We can come up with a proclamation that designates what activities can be done in this area. The local level decides what these activities are.

Mr. Cluff recommends we do a study that researches what kinds of impacts this could have on our area. There are several foundations that are interested in supporting this. Conservation groups are the most interested. Ms. Brown stated that she would be available and offered to help with this project.

Miscellaneous

Commissioner Miller made a motion to approve the claims for August 5, 2013 as presented. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Miller discussed the road located by Chad Mackert's house (2300 East). There is a sharp curve on the road and people have accidently driven into Mr. Mackert's driveway because they were taking the curve too fast. Commissioner Miller thinks it would be a good idea to put some signs up at this location notifying people of the curve in the road and maybe even some speed limit signs.

Commissioner Miller discussed possibly giving away two gift certificates for punch cards to the Fremont Golf Course at a tournament that will be held. Mr. Mockli feels that this could also help to bring in money because the people who win the gift certificates would likely bring a partner, who would have to pay, when they come to golf. Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to donate two \$200 punch cards. Commissioner Baxter 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 July 15, 2013 as written and July 22, 2013 as corrected. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to approve Liquor Catering Permit 1017 for August 15, 2013 to Island Park Lodge and Liquor Catering Permit 1018 for September 7, 2013 to Island Park Lodge. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Baxter made a motion to ratify Commissioner Miller's signature on the amendment to the Special Use Permits issued by the Forest Service that authorizes the expansion and operation of approximately 50 acres to the spray field located at Mack's Inn Sewer Treatment Plant. Commissioner Stoddard seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

There was discussion on installing wireless internet within the courthouse. Mr. Warnke stated that it would cost approximately \$200 to install this. The courts would use this and also there are times when those who come to meet with the commissioners need to have access to the internet. Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to install wireless internet in the courthouse. 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