FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
February 26, 2018

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

Also attended by: Clerk Abbie Mace, Deputy Clerk Amy Stoddard

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

EMS Director Bob Foster RE: Department Report
Mr. Foster cancelled his department report today.

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Brock Bischoff/Executive Session IC 74-206(1)(f)
Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to IC 74-206(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 9:22 a.m. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Commissioner Miller voting “Aye”, Commissioner Stoddard voting “Aye” and Commissioner Baxter voting “Aye”. Commissioner Stoddard declared the meeting open at 10:12 a.m.

District Ranger Elizabeth Davy RE: Ashton/Island Park Ranger District Updates
Ms. Davy reported that there was a fatality on the snowmobile trails in Island Park this last weekend. She is working with law enforcement to make sure everything was done right and all the signage was up. She appreciates all the grant support from Parks and Rec Director Tamra Cikaitoga. She is writing letters supporting various grants for ITD and other things. They are also working on a grant for a brochure about the Mesa Falls, Harriman, and Johnny Sack Cabin. It would be a historical brochure. They are going to give it to YTT (Yellowstone Teton Territory). There was a concern at the Henrys Fork Water Shed Meeting, she stated that the presenter said the Forest Service is supportive of the Effluent going into the Henrys Fork at Macks Inn. What she said is they would support whatever we were able to do. She will need to update her regional office if they are going to try to expand Macks Inn Sewer. She is working with ITD on the Targhee Pass Project providing the environmental analysis for potential widening of the road and a potential wildlife crossing. They are looking into potentially having a timber sale up near Wet Weather, July Creek in about 5 years. The Commissioners asked Ms. Davy about the closing of the Bear Gulch and Graveyard Flats roads. They wondered if the Forest Service had talked to anyone in the County before deciding to close the roads. Ms. Davy stated that this was right as she was coming on but remembers that they discussed with the prior head of Search and Rescue about being able to have access in an event of an emergency. They did an environmental assessment approximately 8 years ago. They closed the road because of resource damage but provided a trail and access for emergency vehicles. The Sheriff had an incident this last summer they weren’t able to get out that way they had to go down to Stonebridge. She wasn’t aware of the incident that occurred at Bear Gulch. The Grave Yard Flats road doesn’t go all the way to the river. She stated that she drove to the end of the road and then had to get out and walk to the river. The sheriff feels that with this road being closed Search and Rescue can’t access the river. The road is in between Riverside Campground and Sheep Falls. Ms. Davy stated that she drove all the roads and was not able to reach the river. You can get a vehicle about 100 yds. from the river. Commissioners feel
that if there is anything going on within the county they ask the Forest Service to coordinate with the County. She feels that it’s a great idea that we coordinate together.

Public Works Director Brandon Harris RE: Department Report

Road and Bridge: reported they got a letter from LTACH on the Local Initiative Grant, we didn’t get the grant. We ranked 25th. They awarded 15 or 16. They are going to complete the design and resubmit it to LTACH. The hauling bids looked fine the bid came in a $276 per load. They are awarding the bid to Choice Sanitation Services.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to award the Landfill Solid Waste Hauling Services to Choice Sanitation Services in the amount of $276.30 /per load for a total of $86,205.60. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

He reported that the Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Brock Bischoff reviewed the Yale Kilgore Project contract. It looks good. This contract will get the project rolling. The total that we will match is $481,525.00. A Company out of Montana will do the design. We will pay them by March 2020.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to sign the agreement between Fremont County and the Federal Highway Administration, the Western Federal Lands Highway Division and require a match of $481,525.00. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all the commissioners voting in favor.

Mr. Harris asked Aaron Swenson from Forsgren Associates to come and talk about setting up an Open House for the Salem Road Project. He will get all the info to get it published. The Open House is set for March 21, 2018 from 6pm-8pm at the annex building. This open house is an informational open house on what the project is going to entail.

On the Salem Road improvement project, they are going to wait another year on the culverts. They need to move the power lines. The power company has been hesitant to move them before the projects starts but an environmental has been done. The intersection needs to be done but will be done outside of this project. It will be a separate project. Another intersection they discussed is the one at Parker’s corner (350 N and 1900 E). It needs some work done on it. They may want to go and look at making some changes to the intersection possibly replacing one culvert. At Crapo Bridge the gas lines are shallow. Forsgren is going to come and check the elevation on them.

When they demo Harris Hill Bridge they plan to get an excavator and take out the bridge at High Top Estates. The biggest issues at the intersection is what to do with the overflow of the water into the intersection. They are looking into maybe designing a box culvert, it could change the intersection from being offset. The other project he discussed is the project on 350 North. They are going to try and come off of there in the spring. They also made an agreement with a property owner that they will be able to keep the access.

Mr. Swenson reported that they were supposed to be setting the Carol Albertson Bridge today. Last week they hit rock, they had to raise it up 8 inches. They dropped the footings further into the ground. They have had some problems with water and scouring. They hopefully have it all fixed now. They discussed the bridge on 2000 east. It will be a GRS Bridge, it’s the same as the High Top Subdivision Bridge. This bridge has a lot bigger span. It’s a 46 ft. span. He sent it to 3 contractors to bid out. The lowest bid was from Big R Bridge in the amount of $92,395.00. They will award the bid to Big R Bridge.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to sign the Notice to Proceed and to accept the bid from Big R Bridge in the amount of $92,395.00 for the Bridge on 2000 East. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all the commissioners voting in favor.

The Bid on 600 North came back and it was too high for what we have budgeted. Mr. Harris will look into different options for this bridge and then discuss it with the commissioners at a later date.
Landfill: He reported to the Island Park City Council on Thursday.

Sewer: no report today.

Assistant County Planner Benson Hatfield RE: Salem Junction Subdivision
Mr. Hatfield presented the Salem Junction Subdivision plat.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to approve the Salem Junction Subdivision Plat along with the Findings of Facts, Conclusions of Law and Decisions. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Social Services – Debbie Adams Re: Indigent Claims
Commissioner Stoddard made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to IC 74-206(1)(d) to consider records that are exempt from disclosure as provided in chapter 3, title 9, Idaho Code at 1:01 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 Stoddard declared the meeting open at 1:12 p.m.

Commissioners signed two release of liens.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to deny case #M2018-4. Commissioner Baxter Seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Planning and Building Administrator Tom Cluff RE: Department Report
Mr. Cluff introduced Lance Poulsen and Adam Hughes to talk about the proposed Macks Inn Development. Mr. Poulsen is an owner with his brother-in-law of Ensign Hospitality. They build hotels. Most of their hotels are in Utah. In 2013 they built a hotel near Zion National Park. They looked into a hotel near West Yellowstone. That's why they chose the Macks Inn area in Island Park. They'd like to build a hotel that enhances the area. They build hotels that flow with the community. It is a custom build. It wouldn’t be the typical 4 story hotel and will have 114 rooms. There is room for parking. It would have a meeting space which would be about 3000 sq. ft. They plan on being open year round. Mr. Poulsen introduced Adam Hughes with Better City. He has been working with Ensign Hospitality. The hotel would employ 32 full time employees. They will have employee housing for all full time and seasonal employees. They feel that this will benefit local businesses in the area economically. They have been working with the Marriott on this location. The Marriott has approved the Island Park location. They feel that Island Park alongside West Yellowstone is its own tourist attraction itself. They are aware of the sewer issues in Island Park. They discussed the snowmobile trails. They are not interested in moving any snowmobile trails. Everything will stay the same as of now. They are not going to cut off the public access to the river. They are going to work on the parking lot where you get out of the river. Possibly charging a parking fee for those who aren't using the facilities and rentals. They are wanting to start construction by June 2018. Headwaters Construction out of Rexburg are the contractors. They hope to be open by May 2020. They are planning on bringing snowmobile tours to Island Park. That may help bring more visitors to the area in the winter. Taxable Value would be approximately $15.2 million. They are here to talk about an Incentive Request. Taxing entities would continue to get what they’re currently receiving. Property tax incentive requested to offset horizontal improvement cost. 20-year incentive on the improved construction on $1 million value. They talked
about an urban renewal, they can go through the city. Another option discussed is a 5 year exemption program that can be agreed upon between the County and the developer. They will look into options and meet with the commissioners at a later date.

**ITD Work Meeting on Speed Limits in Island Park**

Karen Hyatt, Drew Meppen, and Jason Minzghor from the Idaho Transportation Department met to discuss the Speed Limits in Island Park. We, the county and City of Island Park, are proposing that the 45 mph speed limits zones extend in some areas throughout Island Park on Hwy 20. Mayor Tom Jewel went over that the speed limit from Ponds Lodge to Elk Creek, Macks Inn to Island Park Village and then from Valley View to the Montana State line to stay at 45 mph. Just extend the 45 mph instead of bumping it up to 65 within those 2-4 mile stretches. This would help with the collision of animals along the roadway. He mentioned that by Targhee Pass there is a lot of development going on in Bighorn Estates, a boat wash station is set up in the summer, a lot of tourists stopping to take pictures of them crossing into Montana. It would be safer all around if the speed limit was extended to 45 mph in the proposed areas. We aren’t asking for new speed limits just to extend the ones that are already there.

Commissioner Miller feels that with the Hwy Project going on right now, now would be a good time to change the speed limit to see if there is a decrease of collision with animals near the Targhee Pass. They feel that a 55 mph night speed limit might be a great idea to look into. It would help with less accidents, slide offs, and conflicts with animals and it would give us more data on the highway. Commissioners thanked ITD for lowering the speed limits from Chester to Ashton, many patrons of the county call them all the time to thank them.

Commissioner Stoddard brought up that over in Teton Valley the speed limit is 55 mph and people observe it. He asked how that came about. ITD Karen Hyatt stated that they don’t remember how it was set but assumes it was set based by the 85th percentile.

Sheriff Len Humphries stated that this would be a great time to simplify things for his officers and also a good time to evaluate animals and hopefully lessen the car accidents. He asks them to look at this very closely. Ms. Hyatt stated that Ben Burke from ITD did a speed study and it was ineffective. 70% of people still travel at 70 mph. She stated most people traveling through Island Park are ignoring the 45mph speed limits. ITD sets speed limits by the 85th percentile.

There are six 45 mph speed limits in Island Park. We aren’t asking for new speed limits we are only asking to extend the 45mph in the regions listed.

Ms. Hyatt would like to look at the speed studies that were done last summer and meet at a later time. ITD deals with speed limit changes in construction zones. They like to keep their construction workers safe. They feel a way to keep people from speeding is having an increase of law enforcement patrolling all the time. We have a great presence of law enforcement in Island Park.

Commissioner Baxter stated that whenever he has been up to Island Park that most people traveling slow down to 45mph in the speed zones.

ITD stated that when they were here last time they made a request to bump the cities speed limit to 55 mph all the way through starting at last chance. They would have to look to see where the speed limit end would change.

Ms. Hyatt asked the commissioners if they had any other questions or concerns with everything going on Hwy 20.

Commissioner Miller expressed his concern with coordination of the project going on US Hwy 20. He stated that ITD has never once came to a commissioner meeting to talk about their plans. By failing to be informed of what was going on, before they knew there were alternatives that were being planned for the corridors. He feels that they should have been informed from the beginning.
Ms. Hyatt stated some specific things about invoking coordination she wanted to clarify things. She also apologized to Fremont County for not including them on the project they have been doing with Targhee Pass. They are going to base their decision on a specific project. They will from now on inform the county of what they were doing. Commissioner Baxter feels that this is not how he understood it. They should have discussed all that they were doing with the county all along. The commissioners never knew anything was going on until they went to an informational meeting in 2016.

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Brock Bischoff raised concern with the law of Coordination. Ms. Hyatt stated that they have looked over the law and haven’t found anything. ITD has started many years ago talking to environmentalists groups but never have said or brought anything to County Commissioners. ITD has apologized for not being open about the projects going on in the county. From this day forward they will be involving Fremont County in everything that they are doing they have no problem with that. They are going to collect data and bring it back to the commissioners. ITD has other projects planned along the Hwy 20 Corridor. ITD plans to hold public meetings around April/May 2018 about the upcoming project in Ashton. They are excited to have the projects on Hwy 20. Commissioners would like to see how many semi-trucks drive up over Targhee Pass. Most of the trucks drive Hwy 87 through Ennis.

Commissioners ask ITD to review these proposed extending of the 45mph speed limit zones and consider them. It could change the amount of accidents and collisions with animals along Hwy 20.

**Miscellaneous**
Commissioner Miller made a motion to approve the claims for February 26, 2018 as presented. Commissioner Baxter 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 February 20, 2018 as amended. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioners reviewed the request for appointment for a new Fair Board member. His name is Sasha Brague.

Commissioner Baxter made a motion to appoint Sasha Brague as a member of the Fremont County Fair Board. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioners reviewed the ScoutCare Contract Quotation from AVTEC for the Sheriff’s Office.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to approve the ScoutCare Contract with AVTEC in the amount of $7,585.65. 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.

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Jordon Stoddard, Chairman
Fremont County Commissioner

Attest: _____________________________
Abbie Mace, Clerk