

FREMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 3, 2022

Present for the meeting was: Commissioners Jordon Stoddard, Blair Dance and Scott Kamachi

Also attended by: Deputy Clerk Kim Fletcher, Commissioner Elect Rick Hill, Treasurer J'lene Cherry, Assessor Carol Blanchard, Chief Deputy Sheriff Bart Quayle, Public Works Director Brandon Harris, Planning and Noxious Weed Supervisor Bryce Fowler, Extension Office Supervisor Tom Jacobsen, and 4H Coordinator Dana Miller.

Commissioner Stoddard led the pledge.
Treasurer J'lene Cherry said the prayer.

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

Treasurer J'lene Cherry reported our total tax charge was \$23,464,805.60. between the month of November and December we've collected about \$15,457,806.24, so we've collected well over half of our charge. There are some cancellations because of homeowners exemptions, but not as bad as last year. Checks for the taxing districts will go out the 25th of this month.

Assessor Carol Blanchard reported next week the majority of her staff will be in Boise for certification training. We are starting the property tax reduction applications. It is a state program, we help facilitate the paperwork in the assessors office, so the state has moved the application online and we anticipate helping people find tax relief that way. We have started the ratio studies on the sales data from 2022 and are in the process of making sure we are in compliance. DMV has been staying busy.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Bart Quayle reported since we met on December 9th, the Sheriff's department has logged 9221 activity logs in dispatch. They took 132 911 calls, checked on 116 businesses, served 157 civil process papers, checked on the schools 30 times and performed 333 traffic stops. We have 16 inmates onsite, 0 offsite and 1 was released this morning. Of those activities, we generated 232 reports, 24 arrests, 66 citations and we've had several slide-offs because of the ice, but only 16 that resulted in traffic accident reports.

Public Works Director Brandon Harris reported they are looking at the Fun Farm project to move forward this year. Everything has been submitted for that project. They are looking at selecting engineers for the 500 N realignment. The bids for the bridge on 400 N will be coming in soon so they can start designing the realignment for that road. Yale-Kilgore still has its issues with the Nez Perce trail holding up the project. He is working on grants for the landfill to obtain another \$10M in ARPA money. Sewer is still working on ARPA but we are still hopeful for the rest of the money to come in but the odds are good that we should be able to get the rest of what we need to cover the cost. If we can't, they have told us they will help us find other avenues to cover the cost if it does go overbid.

Noxious Weed Supervisor Bryce Fowler reported we sold the Trail Blazer for \$3900. Everything we have sold on surplus since November has brought in about \$39,500 to the

county so far. Road and Bridge has more items to put on surplus. He will be gone to Boise for part of next week for meetings.

Extension Office Supervisor Tom Jacobsen reported they have been doing a lot with the schools and the JCC to teach them how to write resumes to help them prepare to work when they get out. He has been going out to the High Schools frequently as well. They have a lot of classes coming up they will be offering.

4H Coordinator Dana Miller reported we are waiting on the credit card machine. Shooting sports starts on January 14th. So far, they have 20 kids signed up but it should fill up. The state shooting match will be held here this year on June 9th and 10th. They are going to start doing aerospace with the 3rd grade in Teton on Tuesdays. They will be starting art in the 3rd grade in Teton and Ashton. She has sent in the 20% down payment for the trailer, so it has started being built. and hopefully it will be ready by the spring. We are still waiting on another grant but we should hear back in February. Right now, we are doing after school things to get kids back into 4H after the holidays.

Commissioner Dance reported the EMS task force has had a zoom meeting and they have a resolution for this year to support the Governor's request to make it an essential service by the state. The resolution is being sponsored by several legislators. The goal is to ensure it will be continuously funded, hopefully by the state. There is an EMS day at the Capital on January 23rd. The Snowmobile Advisory Committee is requesting enforcement of the county statute and state statute which is in conflict with the forest service regulations stating we can't enforce something which is allowed in one regulatory jurisdiction but not in the other. This needs to be resolved and will probably take some legislation in order to accomplish that. The snow coach has been approved by the Forest Service. Their scoping process hasn't been completed, but they are assembling all of the input they've collected and we are expecting to hear back soon from them. Public Health doesn't have an update, but RACE has met a couple of times, and he attended a Legislative Review via zoom. He would like to express his appreciation to Jordon for his service and his integrity. He appreciates everything he has learned from him these last 2 years. He also expressed his deep respect and gratitude for him personally.

Commissioner Kamachi reported due to the holidays and festivities, the Golf Committee has been quiet. The Fair Board purchased space heaters to help keep people warm during the first Christmas program we held with the Chamber of Commerce this year. We had a pretty good turnout. Eastern Idaho Solid Waste District cancelled their Friday meeting because of the holidays, but the Forsgren Associates and Madison County interests have been approved. They have entertained an idea of having Public Works Director Brandon Harris give them a hand helping them write a grant. USDA and DEQ are content in what they are doing with their plans. He took some time to thank Jordon for his service with the Commissioners, and for all of his knowledge over the last decade and longer. He's allowed us all to learn and grow and he is very grateful for the opportunity to work with him.

Commissioner Stoddard expressed his gratitude and appreciation for everyone. He will miss his association with everyone in the county and thanked them for the experience he has been able to have with them.

Commissioners RE: Senior Citizens Bus Stairs - action item

Carey Daniels discussed the request for a power step unit for the new senior citizen bus. It slides out so the seniors can step onto it and will slide back in. The old bus had this unit and it worked great. They would also like to install a running board on the driver's side of the bus. They also need grip tape for traction, and a seal for the door that is missing. He has talked to a dealer that makes parts specifically for this bus so these parts will fit perfectly without having to make any modifications.

Commissioner Kamachi made a motion to approve from Carpenter Bus Sales the platform apparatuses to install the expandable platform step for the new senior bus and procure a new seal for the door, invoice #023658 for a total of \$1,272.40 with funds pulled from ARPA.

Commissioner Dance seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Shellie Blanchard RE: Senior Citizens Policies and Questions - action item

Ms. Blanchard asked the commissioners about the requirements for the use of the Senior Center in Ashton. The building has been re-keyed, but now they don't know where all of the keys are. The AA group that uses the building 3 times a week feels they are free to duplicate keys, so there are several missing, but they don't know how many. That's one problem. Another problem is reimbursement, which is the main reason she's come to talk to the commissioners. She feels it is a county building, and if the groups coming to use the building, such as AA or others that don't generate an income, there shouldn't be a fee to use the building. The Senior Citizen Board would like to know where their obligation starts and where the county's ends as far as charging fees in a county building. They would like to stay consistent with how other county buildings are run as far as fees. They have a new Board Director who feels everyone should pay a fee to use the building, but Ms. Blanchard disagrees, because other county buildings, such as the Annex, don't require a fee for their use. She has been authorized by the Board to come and ask the Commissioners' thoughts on the matter.

Commissioner Stoddard asked if there has been a problem with cleanup with those using the building.

Ms. Blanchard stated usually no. Most groups are good with cleanup. There is a bathroom and the main room, and they ask that the kitchen not be used. The kitchen could be locked up but it currently isn't. There is some concern there are things going missing but there isn't a way to really know when there are so many keys also unaccounted for.

Commissioner Stoddard suggested maybe it would help to re-key again and have separate keys for the back door and the front door and only allow those that need access to the back door to have that key.

Commissioner Kamachi feels since the heating and power are paid for with the Senior Citizens budget, they may be justified in charging a fee for the use of the building.

Commissioner Stoddard and Commissioner Dance feel the option should be better left to the judgement of the board. It is a county building, and as a general rule, we don't charge for use of a county building, but if an outside party wants to come with the intent to make profit, they could be charged for use of the property.

Ms. Blanchard stated the convection oven at the Senior Citizen center is dying. She would like to know if it would be worth it to have someone repair it or if she should look into finding a new one.

Commissioners told her it might be better to look at prices for a new one.

Payroll Clerk TaGenn Armstrong: Timesheets - action item

Commissioners reviewed the timesheets.

Miscellaneous

Commissioner Kamachi made a motion to approve the claims for January 3, 2022 as presented.

Commissioner Dance seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Dance made a motion to approve the minutes from December 19, 2022 as amended.

Commissioner Kamachi seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Dance made a motion to approve the Junior College Application for the College of Southern Idaho Spring 2023 academic year for Eden Knighton, and the Junior College Application for the College of Eastern Idaho Spring 2023 academic year for Karlee Parkinson.

Commissioner Kamachi seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioners discussed the bid from Housley's for 3 heat pumps for the Courthouse. 2 are needed for the entry, and the third is needed in the women's bathroom. The cost for all 3 pumps will be \$18,555.06. Commissioner Stoddard instructed Housley's to go ahead and order them because the cost of them would go up the beginning of the year.

Commissioner Dance made a motion approve the 3 heat pumps to be replaced in the total of \$18,555.06 in order to get the request in place before the significant price increase at the beginning of the year.

Commissioner Kamachi seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Dance presented a work authorization contract for the restoration of the annex with Belfor Property Restoration. It's an open-ended contract with no dollar amount. Commissioner Stoddard has already signed for the work to be done, it just needs the approval and ratification of the other commissioners.

Commissioner Dance made a motion to ratify Commissioner Stoddard signing a contract with Belfor Property Restoration for emergency repairs to the annex building.

Commissioner Kamachi seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Stoddard presented a bid for a safety tape for the west stairwell of the courthouse from Ryan Wynn, in the amount of \$928.00. We've had 2 recent falls on the stairwell, it is a safety issue, so hopefully having the tread on the stairs will help prevent future issue.

Commissioner Dance made a motion to approve the purchase and installation of the safety tape on the west stairwell in the amount of \$928.00.
Commissioner Kamachi seconded the motion. A full voice vote was heard with all commissioners voting in favor.

Commissioner Kamachi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:29 am.
Commissioner Dance 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.

Blair Dance, Vice-Chairman
Fremont County Commissioner

Attest: _____
Kimberly Fletcher, Deputy Clerk